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Inter-Arab Affairs

Chemical Weapons Treaty Likely To Be Boycotted

NC0801185393 Paris AFP in English 1741 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Bonn, Jan 8 (AFP)—Arab countries will probably boycott the signature in Paris next week of a new international treaty banning the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, diplomats here said Friday.

Ministers of the Arab League will probably make the formal decision not to sign the treaty when they meet in Cairo Monday, they said.

Their objection is that the accord does not establish any link with Israel's widely suspected nuclear arsenal. Israel has neither confirmed or denied that it possesses nuclear weapons, although some press reports say it has a stockpile of several hundred.

The sources said that Israel would sign the accord, along with the United States, Russia, China, India and South Africa, although it was unclear whether Pakistan would sign.

Iraqi Envoy to Arab League Comments on Crisis

NC0901130593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, today informed the League of Iraq's position on the Iraqi air defense equipment south of the 32d parallel.

Dr. Najm met this morning with Ahmad 'Adil, assistant Arab League secretary general in charge of the Secretary General's Office.

The Iraqi representative said that the Security Council did not issue a decision banning Iraqi flights south of the 32d parallel. The ban, he explained, was imposed by the United States, Britain, and France. He added that Iraq views the ban as an encroachment upon its sovereignty and a political attempt to divide the country. Iraq, therefore, rejects the ban and does not recognize it, he said.

Dr. Najm said that the Iraqi air defense missiles and equipment were deployed before the American decision to impose the air embargo. They have remained there ever since, he said.

He said he informed Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in a telephone conversation yesterday of Iraq's stance and anticipation that the Arab world would take a united position against any attempt on Iraq's unity.

'Abd-al-Majid on Situation in Iraq

NC0901154493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1514 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said today that the Arab League affirms its concern for the safety and unity of each Arab state and said it does not accept any League member-state being subjected to threats.

Regarding reports on the situation in southern Iraq, the latest of which are on the movement of the Iraqi missiles and the expiration of the deadline, 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League considers these reports positive factors, which could put an end to an undesirable escalation in the region.

U.S. Said Exaggerating Crisis

NC1101084993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Moctar Ould Haye, Mauritanian minister of civil service, administrative training, labor, youth, and sports, arrived in Cairo early this morning from Paris on a visit to Egypt of several days. During the visit he will chair his country's delegation to the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting, which begins today to discuss the Palestinian deportees issue. Ambassador Sami Thabit, chief of protocol at the Arab League, and the Mauritanian ambassador in Cairo received him at the airport.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf also arrived in Cairo early this morning from Amman to attend the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting.

The Iraqi minister stated upon arrival that Iraq has a clear stand regarding the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's struggle for their legitimate rights. He said the solution to the deportees issue is part of this comprehensive view of the Palestinian people's rights.

He said Iraq firmly supports the Palestinian people in their struggle to retrieve all their rights. He added that deporting a group of Palestinians is only one of the many measures of discrimination and oppression practiced against the Palestinian people. Therefore, Iraq will work in accordance with joint Arab action to create a unified Arab stand that supports the Palestinian people's rights.

On the issue of withdrawing the Iraqi missiles from the no-fly zone, Iraqi Foreign Minister al-Sahhaf said the Americans are exaggerating the problem, as though the Iraqis were deploying their missiles in California. He added that Iraq issued a very clear statement in this regard. Ambassador Sami Thabit, chief of protocol at the Arab League, received the Iraqi minister at the airport.

League Lists Countries Attending Meeting 11 Jan

NC0901203793 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Arab League sources have reported that the following countries have announced that they will participate in the emergency Arab foreign ministers meeting on Monday, 11 January 1993, by sending ministerial level representatives: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Somalia, Iraq, Palestine, and Lebanon.

Syria, Sudan, Morocco, Djibouti, and Mauritania will be represented by their permanent representatives to the Arab League.

The sources said that Bahrain has not yet determined the level of the delegation that will represent it at the meeting. So far Libya has not sent a reply.

The sources expect the Arab League's emergency meeting to last one day and issue a final statement condemning Israeli actions and urging the UN Security Council to assume responsibility for implementing Resolution 799, which calls for returning the Palestinian deportees to their country.

Yemeni Minister Arrives

NC1001105693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo today. During his visit he will take part in the emergency Arab foreign ministers meeting scheduled to begin tomorrow to discuss the Palestinian deportees. In an arrival statement, he said he will study the memo which the Palestinian delegation and the Arab League secretary general will submit on the deportees issue in order to participate effectively in the dialogue as a prelude to reaching a decision that will help alleviate the situation.

On the Egyptian fishing boats detained in Yemen, al-Dali said that this is a passing incident and will not affect Egyptian-Yemeni relations, which recently have begun to improve. He noted that Egyptian-Yemeni negotiations will take place shortly to reach a complete agreement regulating Egyptian fishing in Yemeni territorial waters.

Egypt's 'Amr Musa on Meeting

NC1001141993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Arab foreign ministers will meet at 1700 tomorrow under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at Arab League Headquarters in Cairo. Musa said the ministers will discuss the Arab position on Israel's deportation of more than 400 Palestinians from their homes, which constitutes an obstacle to peace. He added that the Arab foreign ministers will emphasize the importance of implementing Security Council Resolution No. 799 concerning the deportees so that the peace process will not be affected.

Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal said Palestine's delegation will demand that Chapter 7 of the UN Charter be applied to ensure the implementation of the Security Council resolution. He said the Arab foreign ministers will demand that the necessary mechanisms for implementing the resolution be introduced.

Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish said Israel's deportation decision conflicts with international law and human rights. He said the Arab foreign ministers will demand that the Security Council put its resolution into practice. [passage omitted]

Ministers, Envoys Arrive in Cairo

NC1001185693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya arrived in Cairo tonight to attend the emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers on the Palestinian deportees that is due to start tomorrow.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department, also arrived for the same purpose. In an arrival statement, Qaddumi affirmed the importance of coordinating the Arab stand and urging the international community to adopt a firm resolution compelling Israel to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the return of the Palestinians expelled by Israel last month.

Somali Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Hamoud also arrived for the meeting. He said he will submit a report to the Arab League on the Somali national reconciliation conference recently held in Addis Ababa.

PLO Envoy Meets 'Amr Musa

NC1101114093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met at noon today with Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political Department chief and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab foreign ministers' extraordinary conference, which will begin its session this evening at Arab League Headquarters in Cairo to discuss the issue of the Palestinian deportees and its effect on the peace process.

This meeting comes within the framework of discussions 'Amr Musa is holding in his capacity as chairman of this conference with the objective of coordinating and uniting the Arab stand on the Israeli deportation decision.

Foreign Ministry sources affirmed that Egypt is eager to attain the safety and security of the Palestinian deportees and confirm their right to repatriation in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799.

At the same time, Egypt asserted the need to maintain the peace process and overcome all obstacles confronting it in order to reach a just and peaceful settlement of the Palestine question so that comprehensive peace can be achieved in the region.

League Chief Defines 6 'Urgent Tasks' for 1993

NC1001123393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0731 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that the Arab League has six main and urgent tasks to achieve during 1993. These tasks constitute the basic axes of Arab action.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM newspaper, he said that the first of these axes entails exerting intensive efforts to make Israel stop its inhuman practices against the Palestinian people. It also involves urging the United Nations to perform its duties through the preventive diplomacy that we pursue. This entails providing international protection to the Palestinian people in their land and forcing Israel to respect Palestinian human rights in their land; securing the return of the Palestinian deportees to their families; responding to the UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, 425, and 799; and withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and southern Lebanon so that we can all act to achieve a historic reconciliation among the Middle East peoples.

'Abd-al-Majid said that the second task is to help the national reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa succeed so that all Somali factions may work out a comprehensive concept for reviving Somalia and ensuring its interaction with the Arab world.

The third task is to act so that Arab and international efforts may succeed in endorsing the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons—scheduled to hold its third meeting on 13 January—therefore helping the international community to succeed in forcing Israel to sign the agreement so that peace, development, and stability may prevail in the Middle East.

'Abd-al-Majid defined the fourth task as continuing Arab efforts to reach a swift solution to the Libyan-Western crisis. He voiced hope that there will be optimism on reaching a solution that will preserve the Libyan people and fraternal Libya's sovereignty over all its national soil and remove all obstacles to this goal. He said this issue will become clear in the next few months. He pointed out that the Arab League will continue its efforts to solve the Kuwaiti POW's problem, end the suffering of the Iraqi people, and maintain Iraq's unity and independence.

'Abd-al-Majid said the fifth task involves completing the preparation of a comprehensive concept regarding pan-Arab security, including water and food security. This concept will be submitted to the Arab League Council during its September session.

'Abd-al-Majid said the sixth task is to ensure continued international and Arab efforts to provide international protection for the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, who have suffered a great deal for their adherence to their homeland, religion, and independence. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Turkey's Ozal Arrives on Official Visit to Senegal

Comments on Response to Bosnia Issue

TA1101074393 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 0600 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Report by Coskun Kartal from Dakar]

[Text] President Turgut Ozal spoke to reporters on the plane en route to Senegal. He mainly addressed the Bosnia-Hercegovina issue, which Turkey wants the Islamic summit in Dakar to discuss as its priority. He said one of the most important issues now is to ensure that the world public extends more support to Bosnia-Hercegovina. In this respect, he said, great duties await the Turkish and world press.

Ozal pointed out that the U.S. public has assumed a more positive approach recently. He said there are certain circles, however, that are delaying any steps that might be taken to end the Serbian aggression.

[Begin Ozal recording] It is primarily Europe that is delaying these steps. In fact, it is Europe that confounded the issue in the first place. Is that not so? That is what I say. It was primarily the EC that wanted Slovenia and Croatia to separate from the beginning. Had the issue been resolved more peacefully then—in other words, had the Serbs been pressured before being recognized; had a solution been sought at that time—maybe the problem would have been resolved without so much bloodshed. [end recording]

President Ozal recalled that a real federation or confederation was proposed for Yugoslavia at the beginning, but that Germany in particular hastened to recognized Slovenia and Croatia. The other republics had no choice but to declare their own independence as well, Ozal said, which led the Serbs to start their aggression in order to realize their dreams.

Replying to a question, Ozal said the Serbs must be pressured. He added:

[Begin Ozal recording] Political pressure can be applied. For example, the West must be asked why it is recognizing Yugoslavia. There is no new Yugoslavia. The embassies are still there. The West must withdraw its embassies. We must all withdraw our embassies. [end recording]

Replying to another question, Ozal said that if the Serbs' guns and planes can be prevented from moving, then a strict balance can be achieved. He pointed out that there are signs that the Bosnian Army is becoming stronger.

The president stressed that when proposing international military intervention, Turkey is not asking anyone to fight face-to-face in the villages and towns of that country. However, he said, certain points can be hit by missiles fired from the air or from ships, and this will create a balance between the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and the Serbs. Ozal went on to say that the United States has the military technology to do this and that Turkish pilots have the experience necessary to take part in any air operation to be carried out.

Replying to questions on domestic issues, Ozal pointed out that the Chernobyl radiation issue is being raised now for political reasons, that it is a tempest in a teapot, and that the necessary information was released at the time.

Replying to another question, the president said that, at this stage, it would be wrong to have divisions within both the right wing and the left wing. I believe, he said, that the fluctuations in our political life will calm down eventually.

President Ozal was received at Dakar Airport by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. After the national anthems of the two countries were played, the two presidents inspected the honor guard. There was also a 21-gun salute.

Ozal Meets 'Arafat, Izetbegovic

TA1101081293 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 0600 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] The Islamic summit expanded chairmanship council meeting will convene in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, today.

Coskun Kartal from the TRT [Turkish Radio Television] team in Dakar reports: Last night, President Ozal met separately with the head of the Palestinian state, Yasir 'Arafat, and with Bosnia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic.

In his statement after the meeting, 'Arafat said that he briefed Ozal in detail on the situation in the occupied territories and on the Palestinians deported by Israel and that he also thanked Turkey for its support. 'Arafat added that it will be very difficult to continue with the peace talks as long as the issue of the deported Palestinians remains unresolved.

'Arafat stated that he also conveyed to Ozal the Palestinians' deep concern regarding the developments in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Presidential spokesman Kaya Toperi said that the two leaders are in complete accord regarding the Bosnia-Hercegovina and Palestinian issues.

Ozal later met with Izetbegovic. Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, who also participated in the meeting, stated that Izetbegovic briefed them on the negotiations being held with the Serbs in Geneva. Cetin added that the meeting was beneficial.

The Islamic summit is expected to begin at 1200 [1000 GMT]. Apart from Turkish President Turgut Ozal, the meeting is also being attended by host country Senegal President Abdou Diouf; Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian state; and Bosnia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic. The other countries participating in the meeting are being represented by high-ranking state officials.

The Bosnia-Hercegovina issue, which Turkey wants to see featured as a priority in the discussions; the Palestinian deportees issue; and the Hindu attacks on Muslim temples in India will be on the meeting's agenda.

Ozal will return to Turkey tomorrow.

OIC Economic, Cultural Committee Opens Session

LD0901203993 Riyadh SPA in English 1943 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Jeddah, Jan 9, SPA—The OIC's [Organization of Islamic Conference] Islamic Committee for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs started its 17th session at the Ramada hotel in Jeddah on Saturday.

The opening session was addressed by Ambassador Mohammed Mohsin, who on behalf of the OIC's secretary general, Dr. Hamid Algabid, commended the decision made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the Dakar Islamic summit conference to write off debts of some African countries.

He also cited the generous assistance extended by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for the Islamic University in Uganda to enable the university of overcoming its financial problems.

Ambassador Mohsin underlined the importance of the meeting amid this critical phase being undergone by the Islamic history.

The committee elected the chairman of the Pakistani delegation, Ambassador Munir Akram as chairman of the current session, who later, in speech, thanked the participants for the kind gesture.

He lauded the great support being extended by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the organization and its affiliated bodies and cited with satisfaction the resolutions adopted by the recent OIC's foreign ministers in Jeddah on the cause of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Ambassador Akaram denounced the demolition of the Babri mosque in India and the mass deportation of the Palestinians from their homeland and called on Moslims to take firm resolutions over these questions.

Palestinian Affairs

UN Envoy Meets Palestinians on Deportees Issue

TA0901183493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] UN special envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan met this evening with Palestinian representatives from the territories. The meeting took place in East Jerusalem. The Palestinian delegation was headed by Faysal al-Husayni. The Palestinians told the UN envoy that Israel must abide by the UN decision calling for the return of all 415 deportees. After the meeting representatives of the left-wing Palestinian organizations said they will not take part in the peace talks with Israel unless UN Resolution 799 is implemented in full.

'Arafat on Deportation Issue, Peace Talks

LD1001223993 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Palestinian President Mr. Yasir 'Arafat paid a visit to our country this afternoon; he held talks at the Presidential Palace with His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. [passage omitted]

On his departure from the capital, he answered questions from the national press. He spoke first on the [Islamic Conference Organization] Dakar meeting, due to open tomorrow, which will be devoted to the Palestinian deportees issue.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] We issued this invitation, we contacted President Abdou Diouf, as the Islamic summit chairman, and requested that this meeting of the Islamic States Presidency Bureau [as heard] be convened to discuss, at pan-Islamic level, this heinous crime and the other on-going crimes being committed by Israel; the expulsion of over 415 active leaders inside our occupied homeland; and the crimes that continue to be committed daily against the Palestinian people, our children and our women, and against our Islamic and Christian holy places.

There should also be Islamic moves to lend support to the Palestinian people and to stress the need for international protection for these people who are facing all this persecution and racialism. The deportation of the 415, the 413, such a large number, in this inhuman manner, shows the serious nature of what they are doing to the Palestinian people. It is a form of ethnic cleansing, aimed at clearing Palestine of its Muslim and Christian inhabitants to be replaced by new Jewish settlers brought from all over the world.

[Reporter] Mr. President, this is your brother Baba Sid'Abdallah from Radio Mauritania. News agencies have reported today that brother Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian peace talks negotiating team, said that the Palestinian side will continue the negotiations and will not allow them to be killed off. Is there any change in the Palestinian stance to refuse to resume the negotiations until the deportees are returned?

['Arafat] The Palestinian side will not express its position until after the Arab, Islamic, and the non-aligned states meetings are held and after we have made our contacts inside the UN Security Council. As you know, we put the case before the Security Council, Resolution 799 was passed and Israel rejected it, defying the international will and legality. I would like to ask the whole world whether there are one or two standards or criteria of international legality. Is there one for the Arabs and the Palestinians and another in favor of Israel? [passage omitted]

We also call for international protection for our people and the implementation of Security Council resolutions and the implementation of sanctions stipulated in Chapter Seven [of the UN Charter] on sanctions, as has taken place in many other countries. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Ashrawi Deems Deportations 'Fatal Blow'

JN0901185193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Statement by Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Amman on 9 January—recorded]

[Text] The deportation has dealt a direct, fatal blow to the peace process. It has also turned Palestinian public opinion against the peace process, which is losing its credibility as a result of Israel's acts, transgressions, ironfisted policies, and systematic oppression. The deportation was part of a series of acts of escalation and oppression, including the hunting down of people, deliberate murder, the special Arabists' units, the demolition of homes, and the torture of prisoners. All of these acts, in addition to the deportation itself, create a negative atmosphere of suspicion and make the process lose its credibility. These are Israel's objectives and intentions as far as the peace process is concerned. Therefore, careful action must be taken to stop Israel, hold it accountable, and provide protection to the Palestinian people on all levels if the peace process is to continue.

Al-Husayni on Deportees' Return, Intifadah

NC0801142493 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 8 Jan 93 p 7

[Report by Dr. Salwa Abu-Sa'adah]

[Text] In a telephone interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, said: The Palestinians categorically reject Rabin's proposal to link the deportees' return with a halt to the intifadah. He added: These conditions are rejected because the intifadah has not come about at the push of a button or through a decision, but is a spontaneous reaction by the Palestinian people, who resist the arbitrary measures of the Israeli occupation authorities. If the Israeli Government starts to change its treatment of the Palestinians, the intifadah might take a different form serving the new conditions.

Al-Husayni expressed his support for Lebanon's stand on the deportees, saying: It is a principled, sound, and correct stand. He added: Lebanon rejects Israel's attempt to impose a fait accompli. It also rejects Israel's defiance of international norms and laws.

In his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, al-Husayni denied any kind of friction between the PLO and Hamas, indicating that the Tunis and Khartoum meetings at which president 'Arafat met Hamas leaders were part of the continuing meetings between the two sides. He said that there is a minimum of understanding on how to confront the occupation, maintain the intifadah and its effectiveness, and increase the unity of Palestinian action.

On reports that he was a target of assassination by an al-Jihad movement member, al-Husayni said: I do not believe that this is true. At least I do not see a particular organization planning this.

Qaddumi Makes Statement on Talks, Peace Process

JN1001103793 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Tunis, 10 Jan (SANA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has termed the Syrian stand toward the Arab-Israeli conflict as principled, unwavering, and unequivocally clear.

In a statement to SANA in Tunis today, Qaddumi said Syria's stand toward the Palestine question is firm and principled and that the Israeli forces' occupation of the Syrian Golan was the result of the war Syria waged for the sake of Palestine. He added: Syria's doors are always open for us. As President Hafiz al-Asad has said, Syria is a homeland that is dear to us. This country is shouldering its major historic responsibility. As always, it remained in the trench of struggle and fighting in defense of pan-Arab rights.

Qaddumi explained that by virtue of its unwavering principled stands, Syria cannot have a separate solution with Israel. He stressed that the Arab side firmly believes that the Middle East peace talks will certainly lead to a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This solution, he said, should begin by restoring the Palestinian people's national rights and liberating all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories. This is the stand to which Syria adheres and for which it is struggling, he added.

Qaddumi indicated that joint action and coordination between Syria and the Palestinian revolution is a strategic requirement in order to liberate the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, especially since Syria, as well as the Arab summit conferences, have repeatedly emphasized that the Palestine question is the crux of the conflict in the Middle East.

Regarding Arab coordination in the Middle East peace talks in view of the new facts on the ground, Qaddumi stressed that this coordination is a strategic requirement to enhance the Arab position and foil the Israeli games aimed at splitting the Arab ranks and concluding a partial or separate peace with the Arab parties. He emphasized that the Israeli claims on a separate deal with Syria are totally unfounded and are aimed at raising doubts about Arab coordination and Arab parties' stands, as well as weakening their unified stand that calls for a comprehensive solution based on international legitimacy.

Qaddumi said Israel is deliberately seeking to dilute the Middle East peace process. By presenting partial plans, Israel is trying to avoid a comprehensive withdrawal of its forces from the occupied Arab territories in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242. This requires the conference cosponsors to exert further efforts to bring pressure to bear on Israel and impose economic sanctions on it so that it will respond to the international will before the situation exacerbates and before tension further mounts in the Middle East.

On the Palestinian delegation's participation in the next round of bilateral talks, Qaddumi said it will be impossible to go to the next round of talks as long as the 413 Palestinian deportees have not returned to their homeland, Palestine. He added that it is impossible for any Palestinian to go to the upcoming talks before the Palestinian deportees have returned home. These deportees, he said, are the main preoccupation of the Palestinian leadership.

Regarding Lebanon's recent call for an Arab summit, Qaddumi said: If it is possible to hold this summit, then we support this call. He added that currently and under the present circumstances there are difficulties which prevent such a summit.

Asked about the Arab League Council's meeting in Cairo tomorrow, Qaddumi said that following a meeting by the Syrian, Egyptian, Jordanian, and Lebanese foreign ministers and the head of the PLO Political Department, invitations were made for a comprehensive Arab League Council meeting to adopt the necessary decisions and measures to ensure the return of the Palestinian deportees. He added that another invitation will be addressed to the UN Security Council within a few days to fix an immediate date for the return of deportees. He stressed that Israeli continues to arrogantly disdain the international will and the resolutions of international legitimacy and Security Council, including Resolution 799 on Palestinian deportees. This, he said, makes it incumbent on the Security Council to adopt resolutions based on Chapter 7 of the UN Charter and to impose economic sanctions on Israel to force it to implement Resolution 799, as the influential states do with other states in such cases.

Further on Qaddumi Comments

NC0801153993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1348 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tunis, 8 Jan (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has asserted that the Palestinian negotiating delegation will attend the ninth round of talks only after the deportees are returned to their homeland and after Israel makes concessions in the talks that will end the deadlock caused by its intransigence.

In an exclusive statement to MENA's correspondent in Tunis today, Qaddumi denied a report published by the Tunisian newspaper AL-SAHAFAH that cited him as saying he does not rule out the Palestinian delegation's participation in the talks regardless of whether the deportees issue is resolved.

Qaddumi declared it is impossible for the Palestinian delegation to attend the negotiations before the deportees are returned and Israel makes concessions.

He added that during the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting in Cairo on 11 January, the PLO will call for a united Arab stance that will request a meeting of the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution specifying a definite period—a few days—for the deportees to be returned to their homeland. He said the resolution must provide for international sanctions against Israel if it does not comply.

He added that if Israel does not permit the deportees to return, this will be an official indication that the deportation decision is the beginning of a formal Israeli policy of mass deportation of the Palestinian people to outside the occupied territories.

Qaddumi denied another AL-SAHAFAH report that the PLO received notification from Israel via Western intermediaries that it will make concessions during the ninth round of talks. He said: We have asked the United States and Russia, in their capacity as the cosponsors of the Middle East peace conference, and the other permanent members of the Security Council to force Israel to offer concessions so that the negotiations might succeed.

He noted that more than a year after the negotiations began, no progress has been made and the contents of the letter of assurances and President Bush's pledges about reaching agreement on autonomy within a year have not been fulfilled.

Qaddumi accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of pursuing a policy of lies and prevarication. He said Rabin has not adopted a positive attitude conducive to success in the negotiations.

Split in Hamas Over Peace Talks, Demands Cited

TA1001112293 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] faction has agreed not to prevent the PLO from making progress in the political process.

Palestinian sources in the territories have told our correspondent that during the talks in Khartoum, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat presented the Hamas delegation with three questions: Are you a Palestinian group, or do you regard yourselves part of the international movement of Muslim Brothers? Are you a movement which exclusively engages in jihad, or are you accompanying this with political activity? Do you regard yourselves an alternative to the PLO?

A faction of the Hamas delegation, headed by the Hamas spokesman in Amman Ibrahim Ghawshah, provided positive replies to all of these questions, meaning: Hamas is a Palestinian movement, affiliated with the international movement of the Muslim Brothers; it combines jihad activity with civilian policies; and it does not regard itself an alternative to the PLO. At the same time, the radical faction of Hamas opposes these replies, and Hamas as a whole has not finally decided on them yet.

SAWT AL-HAQQ WA AL-HURRIYAH, the Israeli Islamic Movement organ, last weekend published an interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah in which he reported that Hasan al-Turabi, leader of Sudanese Communist Party, has managed to make 'Arafat officially promise that the PLO will halt the political process until the deportees are returned. This appears to be the beginning of a Hamas agreement to holding the peace talks, as so far it has opposed these talks altogether. A week earlier, one of the deportees' leaders, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spoke in favor of Hamas going underground, that is—an attitude contradicting that which Ghawshah presented in Khartoum.

The Palestinian sources added that Hamas has also dropped its demand to be allocated 40 percent of the Palestine National Council [PNC] seats, and it was agreed that the various Palestinian organizations will be asked to give up seats for Hamas' benefit. Fatah will remain the leading organization in the new PNC composition, the sources said.

At the same time, Ghassan al-Khatib and Samir 'Abdallah, Palestinian delegates representing the Palestinian People's Party (formerly the Communist Party), joined the stand presented by chief Palestinian delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, according to which they will not attend the Washington talks if the deportees are not returned.

This is in opposition to the stand PLO's Nabil Sha'th has presented, according to which the peace talks and the struggle for the return of the deportees are two separate matters, and that there is a need to go back to Washington to continue the struggle for the return of the deportees there.

Hamas Spokesman on Deportees, Relations With Fatah

NC1101093493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0819 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Amman, 11 Jan (MENA)—Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), has affirmed that Egypt could play an important role in the Palestinian deportees issue. He noted that Egypt has a great responsibility and could play an influential role in this regard, and that many of the Arabs will follow it.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, Ghawshah stated that the position of Hamas and the Palestinian leadership on the deportees, as agreed in Tunis, is that these deportees should remain where they are, because there is only one way for them; returning to their homes and homeland in Palestine. He pointed out that the deportees will tolerate the snow, the severe weather conditions, threats of shooting, and the sense of isolation from their families and homes and will remain patient until they return to their homeland.

Ghawshah added: We are confident that these deportees will break the will of [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin, because he is dealing with a new type of people he has not encountered before; people who are determined to restore their rights and homeland. He explained that he expects a split within the Jewish public, adding that a split already has started between a group led by Rabin and another led by [Foreign Minister] Peres. In the end, he said, Rabin will submit to the international community's will for the return of the deportees as a result of their determination to return home.

Ghawshah pointed out that Hamas considers the PLO a national framework for the Palestinian people. He said Hamas is not offering itself as an alternative to the PLO, but in order for Hamas to join the framework of the PLO there must be withdrawal from the [peace] talks. The purpose of this withdrawal, he added, is to strengthen the unity of the Palestinian people, because at the moment there are two currents: one rejecting the talks and the other pursuing them.

The Hamas official spokesman noted that the time is right to walk out of the talks, because the brothers in the PLO who went to Madrid and Washington admitted that the outcome of the talks was zero. These brothers, he added, had a chance to give something to the Palestinian people, but they faced the wall of Israeli intransigence. He noted that Israel has achieved enormous gains from the Palestinian participation in the talks, including recognition by half the world's countries, such as China, India, and others.

On relations between Hamas and Fatah, Ghawshah noted that it had been agreed during the Khartoum meeting to form a number of committees to discuss relations between the two parties, including a central committee for dialogue, another for coordination inside the territories, and a third for the deportees. It also was agreed to suspend the direct and indirect media campaigns between Hamas and Fatah, he added, noting that the understanding between the two movements will consolidate the cohesion and unity of the Palestinian people.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Summit Postponed; Bhutan's Envoy Arrives

BK0901161093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The two-day seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] will not take place in Dhaka from the 13th of this month as scheduled. A formal announcement of its repostponement is expected to be made by the current chairman of SAARC, President Premadasa of Sri Lanka. This was stated by Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman at a news briefing in Dhaka this afternoon. He said the Government of India informed the Bangladesh Government that Prime Minister Narasimha Rao will not be able come to Dhaka to attend the SAARC summit. The foreign secretary said the decision not to attend the SAARC summit in Dhaka by the Indian prime minister was taken entirely due to the internal situation now obtaining in India resulting from widespread communal disturbances which have spread all over the country. Mr. Reaz Rahman said Bangladesh was further informed that the Indian state minister for external affairs, R.L. Bhatia, will be arriving in Dhaka tomorrow as a special envoy of the Indian prime minister to explain the reasons for the change of decision. It is also understood that special envoys are being sent to other SAARC capitals.

Replying to a question, the foreign secretary said Bangladesh as the host country of the summit is now in constant touch with the leaders and officials of other SAARC member-countries on the developments. In reply to another question, he told newsmen that fresh dates for the seventh SAARC summit will be fixed through diplomatic correspondence.

Bhutanese Foreign Minister Dawa Tsering arrived in Dhaka today. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said last year's informal discussions among the SAARC foreign ministers could be followed up to develop new modalities for avoiding repeated postponement of the summit.

Algeria

Killing of Bosnian Deputy Premier Condemned

LD0901205293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman today gave a statement which says:

After the hideous assassination of the deputy prime minister in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the daily terror in which the Bosnian people are living knows more terrible levels. This crime which is added to the series of violence known by this country is considered another provocation which touches on UN credibility. The Serb criminals cannot continue challenging the international community.

Algeria adds its voice to the voices of all the countries which demand not only severe condemnation of the crimes committed by the Serbs against humanity in Bosnia-Hercegovina, but also demands serious action to be taken to put an end to this massacre, protect the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and to enable them to exercise their right to existence and sovereignty in peace.

French Foreign Minister Dumas Arrives for Visit

LD0801213593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Roland Dumas, French minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Algiers at noon today for a two-day official visit. On arrival, he went straight to Djenan el-Mithaq where talks between the Algerian and the French sides took place. More details from Said Brahimi.

[Brahimi] Algerian-French talks began at Djenan el-Methaq under the chairmanship of the two countries' foreign ministers, Lakhdar Brahimi representing Algeria, and Roland Dumas representing France. The talks were attended by both countries' ambassadors.

Roland Dumas arrived in Algiers this afternoon on a two-day official visit. He is accompanied by a delegation from his ministry. He was greeted on arrival at Houari Boumedienne international airport by Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi, and the two countries' ambassadors.

At the airport VIP hall Roland Dumas made the following statement:

[Begin Dumas recording in French fading into superimposed Arabic translation] First of all I would like to express my happiness to be in Algiers. It is an opportunity for me to meet friends, to visit Algeria, and to salute its people. Algeria is close to France and to the French people. I was in Algeria when I attended the funeral of the late Mohamed Boudiaf. I have also paid several visits to Algeria before. However, this visit is quite different; I will be received by the highest Algerian authorities. And I am already an optimist about the outcome. France and Algeria and Algeria and France have old and deep bonds; they have special political, economic, financial, and cultural relations. During my visit, I will convey personal messages to the highest Algerian authorities from the highest French authorities. As far as I am concerned, I will try to give fresh momentum to the consolidation of relations in all fields. [end recording]

Holds Talks With Abdessalam, Kafi

LD0901144493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Algerian-French talks began this morning between Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam and Roland Dumas, the French minister of state for foreign affairs. Ahmed Khida has just returned from Djenan el-Mefti [official residence near Algiers] with the following report:

[Khida] Talks between Prime Minister Abdessalam and Roland Dumas are still under way. Foreign Affairs Minister Lakhdar Brahimi; Sid Ahmed Ghozali, Algerian ambassador to France; official Government Spokesman Ait Chalaal; and Mr. Haddad, Foreign Ministry director of European Affairs are present at the talks, which began about one and a half hours ago. Also attending the discussions, on behalf of France, is the French ambassador in Algiers.

This morning Roland Dumas was received at the presidential palace by Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi, to whom he conveyed a personal message from President Mitterrand. Dumas stated, following the audience, that the meeting was very useful. Important international topics, particularly those concerning EC relations with the Maghreban Union, were discussed, he said. The talks, which were also attended by Foreign Minister Brahimi and the two countries' respective ambassadors, also dealt with Algerian-French relations. In this respect, Higher State Council Chairman Kafi briefed Dumas on Algeria's future prospects. Dumas also met with Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and chairman of the National Consultative Council, this morning.

During his talks with the head of government, which are still under way, Dumas is expected to convey an official invitation from French Prime Minister Pierre Beregovoy to Belaid Abdessalam to visit France as soon as possible. Dumas has, furthermore, pointed out that his country is determined to take part in Algerian efforts to modernize the country and to participate also in the ongoing efforts to bolster Algeria's international position through an atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood.

As far as economic and financial cooperation is concerned, Dumas stressed that he did not come to Algeria without first making provision for addressing Algerian officials' concerns. He pointed out that France will contribute to the economic efforts being exerted by Algeria in order to restructure and modernize its economy.

Delivers Message From Mitterrand

LD0901222893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The message from [French President] Francois Mitterrand which was delivered by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, said in particular: I wanted Mr. Roland Dumas, the minister of state for foreign affairs, to personally visit Algeria to express there the friendship between our two peoples and to resume the political and economic dialogue with the Algerian authorities—a dialogue which we want to be open and based on confidence.

In my opinion, the first thing must be a removal of all the subjects that caused the misunderstanding which arose in 1992. I affirm to you that France wishes success for the economic policy which is followed by your government. We also wish prosperity for the friendly Algerian people.

I am fully convinced that strengthening the ties which bring us together—and they are strong—and deepening our cooperation will contribute to entrenching stability and the harmonious development of the two countries which are part of our common area, the Mediterranean.

Dumas Gives News Conference

LD0901214893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] At the Djenan el-Mithaq residence this evening [France's Foreign Minister] Roland Dumas gave a news conference. It was attended by TV reporter Said Brahimi.

[Brahimi] France's Minister for Foreign Relations Roland Dumas began his news conference by saying that he conveyed a message from President Francois Mitterrand to Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council, and a message from French Prime Minister Pierre Beregovoy.

Roland Dumas also said that he came to Algeria to discuss a new impetus to Algerian-French economic and financial relations. His meetings with the Algerian authorities were very important and fruitful. He also gave an explanation of the overall points he raised with his counterpart Lakhdar Brahimi, some of which concerned international issues such as EC-Arab Maghreb Union relations, issues of the Western Sahara, the Middle East, the Palestinian issue, and others. The two ministers also touched on the role the two countries can play in the international arena.

Mr. Roland Dumas was asked several questions about the Bosnia- Hercegovina war, Algeria's debts, and others. Mr. Dumas said that he heard full details from Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam concerning the measures taken by Algeria to repay its debts.

Mr. Dumas answered a question about terrorism by saying that it was one of the points raised in his talks with the Algerian authorities. He added that France condemns terrorism and that it does not want to interefere in Algeria's domestic affairs.

Asked about the status of the Arab Maghreb community, and Algerians in particular, in France's new European policy, Mr. Dumas said that this point also was raised in the talks with the Algerian authorities. Also the possibility of taking new measures like those concerning visas were discussed.

Mr. Dumas also praised the behavior of the Algerian community in France. He described it as examplary behavior.

Visit Concludes; Results 'Positive'

LD0901224093 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Efforts are being made to improve Franco-Algerian relations. This evening, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas ended his visit to Algeria and the results would appear to be positive. Where political relations are concerned the time has come for appeasement after the tensions that followed the interruption of the Algerian electoral process. This development has also taken place in the economic domain as Roland Dumas has announced that several French ministers will soon visit Algeria, and the first of these will be the finance minister. According to Roland Dumas it is a question of giving relations between the two countries a fresh start, especially on the issue of the debt. Here is the foreign minister:

[Begin Dumas recording] I made a point of letting the prime minister know that France would take part in alleviating these debts, that it will facilitate the policy of development that he has set up, that this should be the subject of discussions with specialists, and that we have to act, on the one hand on the bilateral front, and on the other hand on the front of relations between the European Community and Algeria. In order to do this one of my civil servants—the director of the economic service at the Foreign Ministry—will come in a few days to finalize the details of the whole mechanism dealing with financial relations, among others, between Algeria and the Community. And finally, on the international front there exist international organizations. We were clear with each other on this subject, and I have already explained that France will be at Algeria's side when it sets up the measures that it has decided on and in accordance with the choices that it will have made. [end recording]

During his visit, Roland Dumas visited Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council, and Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam who received an invitation from the French prime minister. He also had a surprise meeting with Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar, a member of the Higher State Council.

Court Sentences 79 for 'Conspiring Against State Security'

LD0801130693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The military court in Bechar early this morning issued sentences against 79 military men accused of conspiring against state security, ranging from death sentence to life imprisonment to not guilty. The death sentence was passed on 19 defendants, four of whom were sentenced in their presence while 15 were sentenced in absentia.

The life imprisonment sentence was passed on four defendants. The sentences against the remaining defendants ranged from 10 months to 10 years while 10 defendants were found not guilty. [passage omitted] It is worth mentioning that this session was open and was attended, in addition to the defense lawyers, by a group of journalists representing the various national media. The trial of these military men began on 27 December behind closed doors in the Bechar military court.

Further Report

NC0801123993 Paris AFP in English 1112 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Algiers, Jan 8 (AFP)—Nineteen of 79 defendants were sentenced to death on Friday by an Algerian military court on charges of endangering state security, Algerian radio said.

The radio said the sentences were handed down by a military court in Bechar, western Algeria, after a 12-day trial. Most of the defendants were members of the military.

Fifteen of those given death sentences were sentenced in their absence, the radio said. Four of the 79 were given life sentences, ten were freed and 46 were given prison terms ranging from ten months to ten years, it added.

The 79 faced five charges: forming and running armed groups, attempted conspiracy, distribution of propaganda which threatened Algeria's national interest and failing to denounce crimes. Those sentenced have eight days in which to lodge an appeal with the Supreme Court.

According to press reports, the accused were led by an army officer called Chouchane, who had links with Islamic fundamentalist leader Abdelkader Chebouti. Chouchane is alleged to have planned to destabilise the Algerian army.

Since a state of emergency was imposed nearly a year ago, Algerian courts have sentenced 46 Islamic fundamentalists to death. In 36 cases, the sentences were imposed by military courts. Until now, there has been no official announcement that any executions have been carried out.

Egypt

'Amr Musa Statement on Relations With Sudan

NC0901150093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has declared that there is no Egyptian presence on Sudanese territory south of the 22d parallel. He said that the Sudanese Government's claims that the Hala'ib Governorate is Sudanese territory has no legal, historical, or realistic basis.

In a statement delivered before the People's Assembly today on Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Musa said that the Egyptian presence inside Egypt's international borders north of the 22d parallel is natural, is part of Egypt's exercise of its sovereignty on its territory, and is intended to secure these borders against any attempt to infiltrate them, especially by terrorist elements, who have recently increased their activity. This endangers the area's security and safety as well as the security and safety of the rest of the country.

Musa said that Egypt's position has been and still is that it is necessary to discuss any differences with Sudan within the framework of full adherence to the rules and principles of international law and the charters and agreements both sides have accepted.

Musa explained that Egypt builds its relations with all states on the basis of mutual respect, nonintervention in internal affairs, and observance of the rules and bases of goodneighborliness. He added that Egypt will spare no effort to maintain strong and eternal relations with its sister neighbor Sudan.

The following is the text of the Egyptian foreign minister's statement before the People's Assembly today:

Mr. Speaker, honorable members;

I came today to the distinguished assembly to speak about a subject that concerns Egypt—government and people—and consequently concerns the people's deputies. This subject is relations between Egypt and Sudan.

At the outset, I want to say that these relations are backed by factors of history and geography and by a strong record of social cohesion, family links, and integration between the two peoples.

Yes, there were periods of tension that soon dissipated, regardless of their intensity and strong winds. Yes, there have been and still are those who wish or who work to wreck this special relationship. For our part, we have been, still are, and will continue to work to maintain these relations and close every door that allows the winds of tension to come in and gives either side the chance to fish in troubled waters.

How many times has Egypt refrained from or postponed taking any action? How many times has it calmed down and has it even given preference to Sudan's interests? Egypt has supported the Sudanese people's interests, defended their rights, and upheld their aspirations in international, regional, and Arab parleys. We believe in the eternity of the relations between the fraternal Egyptian and Sudanese peoples.

Today, we declare that this relationship is firm despite the storms. What strengthens this relationship is putting matters in their proper perspective and dealing with history and rights in their proper frameworks to avoid any simplification of matters or the emergence of wrong impressions, which could lead to uncertainty, then tension, then a collision.

Mr. Speaker, honorable members;

Egyptian-Sudanese relations are passing through a tense stage. Decisions the government of fraternal Sudan has made have contributed to this tension. These decisions belie an escalation that does not benefit our relationship with Sudan. The Sudanese Government adopted, in quick succession, several measures for unobjective reasons that are not in harmony with the nature of the relationship that binds the two fraternal nations. These decisions point to certain intentions that we are now scrutinizing.

The first measure was the decision to annex the elementary and secondary schools run by the Egyptian educational mission in Sudan to the Sudanese educational system and to apply Sudanese curricula and methods in them. Perhaps this measure was intended to compel Egypt to adopt retaliatory measures. We are studying this aspect.

The Sudanese Government followed this with another unjustified action by submitting on 27 December 1992 a memorandum to the UN Security Council president that included claims designed to infringe on Egypt's sovereignty over its territories. The memorandum referred to what it termed certain measures in the Hala'ib area, which lies north of the Egyptian-Sudanese international border. It asked that the Security Council members be informed of these developments which, it claimed, threaten the areas's security and peace and urged the Security Council president to use his good offices to restore the former situation in the area. The Sudanese Government submitted a similar memorandum to the Arab League secretary general asking that he also use his good offices.

Before I refute the allegations included in the Sudanese Government's memoranda, permit me to point out that after the Sudanese Government first raised the Hala'ib issue, the Egyptian Government complied with Sudan's request to hold talks on the matter via a joint committee so that the issue could be handled in an amicable atmosphere that takes the two country's historical relationship into account. The Egyptian Government sent a delegation to Khartoum in March 1992 to attend this committee's first meeting. A second meeting was held in Cairo in October 1992.

While Egypt was making preparations to send its representatives to attend the joint committee's third meeting, scheduled for January 1993, it was surprised to learn that the Sudanese Government had submitted its two memoranda to the UN Security Council president and the Arab League secretary general. Egypt believes this action to be a justification for Sudan's refusal to pursue the joint commmittee's meetings aimed to resolve the dispute directly and amicably.

Hence, we decided to submit the historical and legal facts to the UN Security Council president and the Arab League secretary general. We continue to hope that we will succeed as two fraternal countries to settle this transient issue in line with the principles of our eternal and solid relations.

First: The first article of the agreement signed on 19 January 1899 by the Egyptian and British Governments, in their capacity as the two parties in charge of the joint rule of Sudan, specified clearly and unambiguously Sudan's northern international border with Egypt as follows:

"In this agreement, the term Sudan shall apply to all territories lying south of the 22d parallel."

To date this agreement remains the only international document specifying the Egyptian-Sudanese border. Neither country can circumvent this agreement except through another international agreement, concluded on the same level, that approves a modification of the border. No such development has occurred.

Second: On 26 March 1899 and on 4 November 1902, the Egyptian interior minister issued two ministerial decisions placing certain areas within Egypt's international borders north of the 22d parallel under Sudanese administration and areas within Sudan's international borders south of the 22d parallel under Egyptian administration. The decisions were adopted for humanitarian reasons concerning the tribes living on the two sides of the international border and did not affect this line or its status. The interior minister explained that the aim was to define the areas of the Arab tribes of Egypt and Sudan in the interest of administrative works. This proves the temporary administrative nature of these arrangements. Moreover, the person who issued these decisions and the person who implemented them—the "director of Aswan"—were Egyptian Government officials at that time.

In 1907, an Egyptian amendment was issued to the interior minister's 1902 decision ending Sudanese administration of some territories included in the 1902 decision. This amendment was implemented.

Here it should be emphasized that it cannot be said that the decisions issued by the Egyptian interior minister were a modification or demarcation of this line. Nor can it be said under any circumstances that they were an amendment to the 19 January 1899 agreement. They were purely administrative decisions issued for administrative and humanitarian purposes. Such decisions could not amend an international agreement, such as the 1899 agreement.

Third: Egypt has not ceased to exercise its sovereignty over the administrative region north of the 22d parallel since the signing of the 1899 agreement. This exercise has taken many aspects, including:

1. The Egyptian security and administrative presence in the region in all its shapes.

2. Egypt's responsibility for issuing decisions on mineral prospecting for Egyptian and Sudanese companies alike. Moreover, Egypt has engaged in mining activity in the region since 1915 and it established a natural reserve to protect wildlife there.

3. Official Egyptian maps since the signing of the agreement indicate that its international borders are north of the 22d parallel.

The Egyptian Government has made a point of lodging protests when the Sudanese authorities try to act in the region in a way that contravenes Egyptian sovereignty over the area.

When Sudan raised the first crisis on the Egyptian-Sudanese border in 1958, Egypt—out of concern for the relations between the two fraternal countries—agreed to postpone discussing the problem until fraternal Sudan's circumstances permitted it to do so. The Sudanese Government pledged that the participation of the brother Sudanese living in the region in the Sudanese elections in 1958 would not be used to prove its sovereignty over that region. And contrary to the Sudanese Government's memoranda, Egypt did not withdraw any forces from that region. They are primarily border guard forces stationed permanently on the international borders between Egypt and Sudan.

What led to a problem in 1991 was the Sudanese Government's granting of a license to a Canadian company to prospect for oil in the administrative region. The Egyptian Government objected to this at that time and the Sudanese Government withdrew the license given to the Canadian company.

Egypt regards the remark in the two Sudanese Government's memoranda concerning "the flagrant aggression of the Egyptian forces, which carried out an incursion on 9 December 1992" as unacceptable. There has never been an Egyptian presence on Sudanese territory south of the 22d parallel. Its claim that the "Hala'ib Governorate" is Sudanese territory has no legal, historical, or realistic basis. These claims actually expose the Sudanese Government's intentions of turning the specific administrative tasks entrusted to it according to a decision by the Egyptian interior minister into permanent occupation and annexation of a territory that legally and historically belongs to Egypt.

In the two memoranda I sent to the president of the UN Security Council and the secretary general of the Arab League, we responded objectively to the Sudanese reading of the Egyptian Hala'ib file by pointing out the legal facts and principles of the issue, hoping that this transient problem will be solved within the framework of our historic relations and on the basis of historic facts and legal principles.

I would like to affirm that the Egyptian presence inside Egypt's international borders north of the 22d parallel is natural, is part of Egypt's exercise of its sovereignty on its territory, and is intended to secure these borders against any attempt to infiltrate them, especially by terrorist elements, who have recently increased their activity. This endangers the area's security and safety as well as the security and safety of the rest of the country.

Egypt's position has been and still is that it is necessary to discuss any differences with Sudan within the framework of full adherence to the rules and principles of international law and the charters and agreements both sides have accepted.

We build our relations with all states on the basis of mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and observance of the rules and bases of goodneighborliness. Egypt will spare no effort to maintain the strong and eternal relations with its sister neighbor Sudan.

We do not seek an escalation with fraternal Sudan. Our aim is to solve the problem. Life is not without problems, but our aim is to solve them through dialogue, understanding, and mutual respect for the rights, commitments, and documents between us.

Chief of Staff on Presence of Troops in Sudan

NC0901120993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1022 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, Armed Forces chief of staff, has said that there are no Egyptian forces outside Egyptian territory.

In a statement that will be published in Sunday's edition of the weekly magazine UKTUBAR, Halabi stresses that the Egyptian Armed Forces are performing their routine mission of protecting the border.

The magazine says that Sudanese allegations that Egyptian forces have entered Sudanese territory are untrue.

UKTUBAR adds that Egyptian forces are operating within the boundaries north of 22 parallel, which defines Egypt's border with Sudan. This includes Hala'ib and Shalatayn—the two Egyptian regions which Sudan claims are be Sudanese territory.

Al-Baz Comments on Sudanese, Libyan Relations

NC1001204093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Al-Mansurah, 10 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said there are fundamental principles in Egyptian-Sudanese relations. He said: We deal with Sudan as a twin country. The interests of the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples are interlinked and do not conflict with each other.

This came in a lecture al-Baz delivered today in the conference hall in al-Mansurah University. Al-Daqahliyah Governor Mustafa Kamil, al-Mansurah University President Dr. Muhammad 'Amarah, local political and popular leaders, and about 400 university professors attended.

In his lecture, al-Baz reviewed the history of the two peoples of the Nile Valley since Pharaonic times, indicating that a treaty signed in 1899 was the first official document delineating the political frontiers between Egypt and what was afterward called Sudan as a state for the first time. He said this treaty specified the 22d parallel as the borderline between the two countries. He affirmed that facilities granted by Egyptian Interior Minister Mustafa Pasha Fahmi in 1902 and 1907 were unilateral acts by Egypt intended solely to give social and economic services to the bedouin tribes living in the Hala'ib region. He said this region is under Egyptian sovereignty and control, is part of Egyptian soil, and no one has the right to infringe its safety.

Answering questions, al-Baz said Egypt has not sent armed forces to the Hala'ib region, but has some observation points there. He said it is not in the interest of the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples to have a border dispute, because this could be exploited to instigate one people against the other.

Analyzing why the Sudanese Government raised this subject, al-Baz said it was to divert attention from its involvement in recent incidents in Egypt. He said that if Egypt considers Sudan its strategic backyard, it does not accept Egyptian national security being undermined or others intervening in its internal affairs. He noted that Egypt does not intend to embark on a military confrontation with Sudan.

On relations with Libya, al-Baz stressed the two countries' concern to strengthen the close ties between them, indicating that the closure of Libya's land borders with neighboring states is a gesture of complaint by the Libyan people about the international sanctions imposed on them; it is not directed against Egypt.

Defense Minister on Armed Forces Role, Sudan

NC1001200693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1727 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—In a statement to the People's Assembly's Defense and National Security Committee today, Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi said he was pleased about meeting the people's representatives and assured them the Armed Forces shoulder their responsibilities in peace and war. He said a strong army is the shield that protects the homeland and imposes and maintains peace.

Gen. Tantawi said the Armed Forces, with the spirit of the immortal October war and on the instructions of the president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, work determinedly and resolutely to upgrade their combat competence to remain strong, mighty, and advanced in armament, training, and thought and so that they will continue to be fully ready to perform their mission at all times.

He explained that the world is experiencing extremely important changes and Egypt, with its pioneering role and cultural weight, cannot possibly stand aloof, not influencing these changes or being unaffected by them, especially in connection with the Middle East, a region within Egypt's direct interest.

The defense minister stressed the importance of monitoring world changes and new balances of power, in which economy plays a central role. He also noted the importance of monitoring armament and technology control policies, stressing the importance of applying these policies justly and to all countries without exception. He said Egypt stands at the forefront of those calling to eliminate mass destruction weapons.

The defense minister pointed out the perils of the conflicts in the Balkan and in the republics of the former Soviet Union and their impact on world peace and security. He expressed concern over those countries' selling arms to tense world regions, especially the Middle East, because this directly reflects on the balance of power in the region.

On the Arab-Israeli conflict, the defense minister stressed the importance of engaging in a serious peace process and achieving a comprehensive settlement of all aspects of the conflict to keep the specter of war away from the region and concentrate on construction and development.

Discussing the overall regional situation, the defense minister noted the importance of scrutinizing the movements of some forces that seek to exploit problems [tada'iyat] in some countries to spread their dangers and ideologies by illegitimate methods. He said Egypt is the region's balance and the power to safeguard peace and security.

He said Sudan is a sisterly country and that the Egyptian Armed Forces have not—as some quarters claim—engaged in any excesses on the Egyptian-Sudanese border. If there are differences in viewpoints with the Sudanese leadership, he said, the channels of contact between the brothers are open to solve any problem.

The defense minister praised the Armed Forces' role in supporting international legitimacy under the new world order. He pointed out that the Armed Forces are currently participating in peacekeeping missions in many countries, such as Bosnia-Hercegovina, Somalia, and Angola. This, he explained, reflects credibility in Egypt's ability and leading role and confidence in the Armed Forces' competence, capabilities, and acceptable image on all world levels.

The defense minister said there are concentrated efforts to keep the Armed Forces strong, developed, and at a high level of proficiency and combat ability to deter any aggression. He said the continuing modernization process focuses primarily on quality, using modern technology without entering an arms race against regional states.

He said the armed forces in every country constitute a major economic burden on the state. They should not make tangible economic profit commensurate with spending on them; their security value has no alternative and cannot be estimated in terms of money.

Looking at the state's economy, the defense minister said, we are trying hard to ensure national security at a minimal cost, which is a difficult equation. He said Egypt has spent less on the military than the rest of the region's countries in the recent period, something made possible by an appropriate rationalization policy and a marketing plan to achieve adequate financing. We are also trying to achieve self-reliance in the Armed Forces' essential requirements in the fields of provisions, ammunition, and some types of weaponry and equipment. [passage omitted]

Labor Party 'Mediating' in Dispute With Sudan

NC0901180393 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Jan 93 p 4

[Unattributed statement: "Our Party Is Mediating To Contain the Crisis; A Shukri-Led Delegation Is in Khartoum"]

[Text] The Labor Party is following with extreme concern the recent developments between the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments which do not suit the depth and strength of the relations between the two fraternal peoples. The party believes that the nature of relations between the two countries necessitates resolving potential disputes through understanding. Neither side must make unilateral decisions, use any form of military force, or seek help from foreign powers. The party stresses that no foreign powers must be allowed to intervene in or exploit the dispute between the two countries, since this will necessarily be against the interests of the two countries.

In the face of the recent deterioration in bilateral relations, the party has decided to contact officials from the two governments and explore the views of the Egyptian Government and the Sudanese Embassy to prepare for the dispatch of a delegation from the party to Khartoum to try to contain the crisis, end the deterioration in relations, and put them back on the right track, thus resolving the differences in accordance with our joint interests.

Hala'ib Citizens Ask To Vote; Passports Issued

NC0801115893 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 6 Jan 93 p 1

[By a correspondent in al-Bahr al-Ahmar Governorate]

[Text] The committee formed by al-Bahr al-Ahmar Security Department under the supervision of Major General 'Abd-al-Mun'im Nur-al-Din, assistant security director, has received 1,300 Egyptian citizens from Hala'ib who want to register on voting lists. Election cards were issued to them and their families and free passports were offered to those who asked.

A committee of the chief of Shalatayn police station, the chief of Hala'ib center, and tribal chieftains was formed for the purpose. Al-Bahr al-Ahmar's governor, Major General Yusri al-Shami, and executive and public leaders toured the region (the convoy of construction) [as published] to discuss its needs. The government pays 50 pounds a month to each family in the region, which costs the state over 1 million pounds a year.

Committee Recommends Paving Roads to Hala'ib

NC0801081593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 8 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AKHBAR notes that the Transport and Communications Committee of the People's Assembly has recommended the need to allocate the necessary funds to pave the roads leading to the area of Hala'ib, because this is a national issue that must not be delayed. The committee also called for introducing adequate telephone lines to the city of Shalatayn, al-Bahr al-Ahmar Governorate.

Schools Handed Over to Sudanese Committees

NC1001184293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (MENA)—Educational Directorate committees in Khartoum have received three elementary and preparatory schools belonging to the Egyptian education mission in Sudan. The remaining, fourth, school will be handed over tomorrow, Monday.

Muhammad Nur-al-Din al-Dasuqi, director of the Egyptian education mission in Sudan, instructed teaching staff to continue working until the end of the school year although it is not yet known whether staff will teach the Sudanese or Egyptian curriculum.

The Egyptian mission will prepare preparatory certificate examinations according to the Egyptian system. Examinations will be held on 13 March.

'Thousands' Protest Israeli Deportations 10 Jan

NC1001170393 Paris AFP in English 1641 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan 10 (AFP)—Thousands of Egyptian university students protesting the mass expulsion of Palestinian fundamentalists burned an Israeli flag outside its embassy here Sunday and called for a holy war.

In the first anti-Israeli protest since the Gulf war, the students told Israel's ambassador to go home and chanted "the prophet's armies will sweep Israel away" as well as "Jihad, Jihad" (Holy War), witnesses said.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 students gathered at Cairo University, then took to the streets before police stopped them just outside the embassy, which is about 500 meters (yards) from the campus, witnesses said.

Many students were supporters of Muslim fundamentalist groups.

The protest came before Monday's meeting here of Arab League ministers who will urge the U.N. Security Council to adopt sanctions against Israel for its December 17 expulsion of 415 Palestinian fundamentalists to Lebanon.

Egypt is the only Arab country to have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Demonstrations End 'Peacefully'

NC1001192693 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1910 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—At noon today, several hundred students demonstrated in front of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo and burned the Israeli flag to protest the deportation of Palestinians. Security around the embassy was intensified. The demonstrators left the scene peacefully after an hour.

Weapons Bound for Bosnia Stopped in Canal

NC0901160093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nasir 'Awad]

[Text] The Egyptian authorities at Suez Port on 28 December prevented the Egyptian ship Ecosharif [name as published], which was coming from Iran and was bound for Yugoslavia and carrying 9,000 pieces of weaponry, from transiting the Suez Canal. The ship is still anchored at the port.

Responsible sources at the Suez Port Authority have noted that they received instructions from higher authorities to prevent the ship from passing through the canal, claiming that the weapons were bound for the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

In the meantime, U.S., French, and Italian ships carrying weapons and ammunitions to Somalia continue to pass through the canal everyday. The latest was a U.S. cruiser that passed through the canal last week. It is worth noting that the ship Ecosharif flies an Egyptian flag and is operated by an Egyptian crew. It is registered at the Alexandria Port in the name of Ecosharif Lines.

'Amr Musa Reviews Diplomacy, 1992 World Issues

NC0901082093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0611 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has called for efforts to overcome the Arab divisions and rifts that resulted from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He noted that President Mubarak's success in finding a solution to the Saudi-Qatari dispute is a good example for other genuine diplomatic efforts. In a statement to the newspaper AL-AHRAM that was published today, Musa called for an Arab summit. He said the meeting would have to be well prepared, held at an appropriate time, and under favorable conditions for it to be successful.

Musa said he expects the new Bill Clinton-led U.S. Administration to continue its interest in the Middle East, adding, however, that it might come after other priorities. He also expects continued U.S. support for the peace process.

In reply to a question on the possibility of an Arab response to an Israeli or U.S. request for concessions—such as abolishing the Arab boycott of Israel to encourage it to freeze settlement-building—Musa said that President Mubarak has already put forward this initiative. He pointed out that had President Mubarak's overture been heeded, it would have given a good boost to the peace process. He said we must not forget that Israel's agreement to halt settlement-building would mean recognition that its sovereignty does not extend to the occupied land and that the presence of its citizens on these territories is not an absolute right. Musa said that the Arab boycott of Israel occurs at varying levels and is negotiable in light of our interests.

Musa added that 1992 emphasized Egypt's active role in the world. He mentioned that Egypt made a proposal to the Moscow multilateral negotiations that resulted in the formation of a committee on refugee affairs within the framework of the multilateral negotiations. The step allowed Palestinians from outside the occupied territories to participate in the peace process. These issues were proposed at the negotiating table as political issues, not humanitarian ones. He noted that Egypt made another initiative for the formation of a committee on Jerusalem.

Musa said that as the year drew to a close, Egyptian diplomacy made an important gain in the first visit by an Egyptian foreign minister to Israel for years. During that visit, an agreement was reached on the formula for participation by Palestinians from outside the occupied territories in all multilateral negotiations. Palestinian representation in these committees was on equal footing with all other delegations.

Regarding the Egyptian role in the crisis of two Libyans accused of blowing up a U.S. and French airliners, Musa said that Egypt exerted extraordinary diplomatic efforts to defuse the crisis through personal contacts by President Mubarak and through the Arab League and the United Nations. He noted that Egypt's endeavors with the involved parties succeeded in limiting the damage to Libya to a minimum. Egypt, he said, is still looking for ways to implement international law in such a way as to safeguard the brothers in Libya and respect international legitimacy.

Musa said that the situation in Somalia is more tragic than last year, adding that Egypt kept its embassy in Mogadishu open as a token for the continuation of the Somali entity and to function as a center for contacts with all parties. He noted that several envoys were sent and delegations of Somali groups were received to hold a reconciliation conference. He added that addressing the Somali tragedy required international moves and a UN Security Council resolution providing for armed intervention by international forces, including Egypt.

Comments on Iraqi Actions, Deportees

NC1001112093 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1040 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Egypt has not received any U.S. request to support it if Washington decides to take any military action against Iraq. He urged the Baghdad government to avoid provoking the Western countries that are demanding removal of the antiaircraft missiles from the no-fly zone in southern Iraq.

In an interview with the mass-circulation newspaper YOMIURI published today, Musa said that the situation in Iraq remains very tense and that the best thing to do is to avoid escalation of this tension, particularly on the part of the Iraqi Government, and therefore reduce the threats of taking retaliatory measures.

The foreign minister, who will arrive in Tokyo next week (19 January) on a visit to Japan, said Egypt is negotiating with Israel to resolve the Palestinian deportees issue, but refused to give any details on the outcome of these negotiations. He noted that Egypt's aim is to reach a solution in the near future and before the resumption of the Middle East peace talks next month. He also said Egypt welcomes Japan's initiative to participate in the Middle East talks and host part of these talks in Tokyo (the environment committee).

The foreign minister stressed that the Arab countries' dispute with Iran was caused by border disagreements and Iran's support for Islamic fundamentalists. He called on Japan, which has strong relations with the Tehran government, to protest the Iranian actions, which he said are bound to create tension in the Middle East. He added that Japan's call for ending the Arab boycott of foreign companies that deal with Israel should go hand in hand with a call on Israel to cease its policy of building new settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Comment on U.S. Attitudes Toward Israel, Iraq

NC0901185893 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 7 Jan 93 p 7

[From the "Close Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah]

[Text] Israel is not Iraq...and Yitzhaq Rabin clearly does not fall into the same category as Saddam Husayn.

There still seems to be no prospect of a solution to the problem of the Palestinian deportees. The Rabin government has decided simply to ignore the Security Council's resolutions calling for their return. American diplomatic efforts have failed to persuade Israel even to agree to let the Red Cross deliver humanitarian aid to them, living as they are in the severest possible conditions on the Lebanese-Israeli border. In fact, Israeli border troops have gone so far as to fire at them in an attempt to force them to move across the Lebanese border.

As long as this human tragedy remains unresolved, Middle East peace talks cannot be expected to resume. Rabin has succeeded in doing what Shamir never managed to do: bring the Madrid peace process to a dead end while pinning the blame on Islamic extremism, and also on Lebanon for refusing to accept the deportees.

Rabin's refusal to comply with Security Council resolutions inevitably calls to mind the attitude of Saddam Husayn, and once again raises doubts in the Arab world as to what the Americans are really up to, and how serious they are about bringing peace to the region. Were President Bush's efforts to launch the Madrid process prompted by a genuine desire to bring about a historic reconciliation and resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, or were they merely intended to serve as a diplomatic cover for the Gulf war and its repercussions?

Remember how effectively the United States managed to use the United Nations and Security Council resolutions, first of all to put pressure on Saddam Husayn and then to win the international support necessary to legitimize military intervention when the Iraqi president stuck to his guns and refused to comply with the Council's resolutions?

The difference between Saddam and Rabin, though, is the difference between the United States attitude to the question of peace in the Middle East. [sentence as published]

Unfortunately for Saddam, the Americans did not support him in his violations of Security Council resolutions, whereas Rabin enjoys their support for his position on the deportee crisis as he, too, refuses to abide by Security Council resolutions on the issue. The clearest evidence of this came a few days ago, when Washington placed a series of obstacles in the way of a new declaration from the Security Council calling on Israel to comply with its resolution regarding the deportees' return. It settled instead for repeating its earlier, insubstantial call for Israel merely to resolve the problem.

More importantly, Rabin has found a ready response from President-elect Clinton, who has declared his willingness to meet the Israeli Prime Minister after he takes office on 20 January. This leads one to suspect that Rabin will be trying to win the new administration's full support for Israel's negative attitude to the peace and the deportee problem.

The UN Secretary-General has warned that he intends to ask the Security Council to take further measures if Israel does not comply with its resolutions concerning the deportees, and it is clear what sort of measures he has in mind. Yet how will he be able to get them through if the United States opposes them, as it opposed passing the declaration?

The American position is understandable, I suppose, but it is the Arab position that makes one wonder. The Arab foreign ministers were unable, in their recent discussions on the deportee problem, to reach any definitive position with regard to its impact on the peace process. Nor have they yet fixed a date to meet again, following their hasty declaration of last week. If Rabin can persuade the Americans and Arabs that the next round of peace negotiations can go ahead while the Palestinians continue to languish in such inhuman and degrading conditions, what kind of peace do the Arabs expect to get?

Columnist Criticizes U.S. Stand on Deportees

NC0901215193 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Jan 93 p 2

[Column by Ahmad Taha al-Nuqr: "The Blind Duck!"]

[Text] The United States has not been and will not be a fair mediator in our struggle with Israel. Washington will not be able to acquit itself before history of any guilt regarding these strugglers who have been expelled by Israel, which occupies their land. Washington will never succeed in washing its hands of the blood of any deportee who dies as a martyr from the bitter cold that penetrates our heavy blankets inside our homes. The Americans cannot in this instance claim that the Bush administration is a lame duck that cannot make any firm decision in a transitional period, especially if such a decision infuriates Israel. The U.S. President made a fateful decision to intervene militarily in Somalia after Bill Clinton's success in the U.S. Presidential elections. He then traveled to Moscow to sign the most important treaty to limit armament in the history of mankind, namely the START II Treaty, which will reduce the U.S. and Russian stockpile of nuclear and strategic warheads by two-thirds. Furthermore, Bush declared without hesitation that he is ready to strike Saddam Husayn.

The United States does all this and then buries its head in the sand when it concerns the tragedy of the deportees and the Palestinian issue.

Washington has not been content with this; it has practiced feverish pressure to thwart an attempt made by some UN Security Council members to issue an "unbinding" statement appealing to Israel to implement Resolution 799 calling for the return of the deportees to their homeland. It is certain that the United States will firmly oppose any new attempt by the Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel.

Bush wept before the West Point military academy cadets two nights ago as he was describing the hungry children in Somalia. However, he did not speak about the tragedy of the children of 415 Palestinian professors, doctors, and youths whom Israel has expelled to the cold wasteland of occupied southern Lebanon.

The best proof of the U.S. bias is its strange insistence on not opening a dialogue with the PLO, the Palestinians' legitimate representative. This is despite the decision of Rabin, the "butcher of the intifadah" to lift the ban on contacts with the PLO.

Thus, the United States proves that it is more royalist than the king and that it is not a lame duck but a "blind duck"!!.

Tourism 'Returning to Normal' After Mubarak Visit

NC0901121593 Cairo MENA in English 1105 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan 9 (MENA)—Tourist flow into Egypt is returning to normal following President Husni Mubarak's visit to Luxor, Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Fu'ad Sultan told MENA today.

Further increase in tourist flux is expected with the coming period after President Mubarak's visit to al-Ghardaqah to assure the whole world that Egypt will ever continue to be the oasis of safety and security, he said.

Egypt's image in the foreign media has changed due to the president's visits to Luxor and al-Ghardaqah, the minister noted stressing that the interaction between the political leadership and the public was a strong reason for the eradication of terrorism.

Libya

Libya Closes Borders in Protest of UN Resolution

LD0801195193 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Jan (JANA)—In view of the serious and enormous human and material losses and of the damage incurred by the Libyan Arab people every day as a direct result of the measures of the embargo imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah by the unjust UN Resolution 748, and which confirm that the Great Jamahiriyah is a victim of international terrorism; and in response to appeals by the masses who yesterday attended the funeral of the late Ibrahim Muhammad Bakkar, secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security, who went on an official mission outside the Great Jamahiriyah and who was forced to travel there and back by road as a result of the unjust measures imposed on our people and which were one of the main reasons why he died in a tragic road accident, and since the same measures cannot be dissociated either from the tragic crash of the Libyan Arab Airlines planes in which 157 people died; the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security announces that it has been decided to suspend all movement to and from the Great Jamahiriyah through the land crossing points for three days as of 0700 [0500 GMT] 9 January until 0700 12 January.

JANA has also learned that it is likely that these land crossing points will remain closed permanently and that the competent authorities in the Great Jamahiriyah are examining this matter.

Hundreds Stranded at Closed Border With Egypt

NC0901165293 Paris AFP in English 1524 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Al-Sallum, Egypt, Jan 9 (AFP)—Libya closed its borders Saturday [9 January] with Tunisia and Egypt to protest a nine-month U.N. embargo on international flights, blocking hundreds of travellers who had not heard the announcement. Only its sea ports remained opened after Libya announced late Friday its land borders would be closed for three days in protest at what it called the "enormous human and material damage inflicted by the air embargo."

About 100 vehicles, including those carrying merchandise, were blocked at Egypt's border post here amid heavy rain and cold, while dozens more were stranded at the Tunisian-Libyan border at Ras Jadir. Diplomats were also barred from travelling by the measure which, according to the Libyan news agency, JANA, could become a permanent closure.

An Egyptian traveller said the move "will only heighten Libya's isolation in the world," imposed after Tripoli refused to hand over two suspects wanted in the bombing of a Pan American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The closure follows the death Wednesday of Libyan Justice Minister General Ibrahim Muhammad Bakkar in a car accident while driving back from Tunisia. The Libyan government sees the death as a consequence of the embargo on air links with Libya which the U.N. Security Council imposed in April.

Since the embargo came into effect, the only legal way of entering Libya has been through its border-crossings with Tunisia and Egypt.

The authorities in Tripoli are adopting "contradictory measures," said another traveller stranded at the Egyptian border post. "At a time when Libyan leaders said their territory was open to all Arabs, they decide to close their land borders," an Egyptian merchant said.

Among vehicles blocked were refrigerated trucks from Syria and Jordan that had been carrying fruit and vegetables to Libya.

Egyptian Lieutenant Colonel Ala' al-Samuli, based at the border crossing, said truck drivers decided to wait until the border reopened, while other travellers preferred to turn back to Cairo or Alexandria.

Since August 1991, Egyptians and Libyans have been allowed to cross their common border without formalities, in the wake of a unilateral decision taken by the Libyan president, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. More than a million Egyptians work in various fields in Libya, including the oil industry.

The closure took effect on the Egyptian-Libyan border at 7:00 a.m. (0500 GMT).

The U.N. Security Council ordered sanctions imposed on Libya on April 15, 1992 after it said Tripoli failed to cooperate with the Lockerbie investigation and another into the bombing of a French airliner over Niger in 1989. A total of 440 people were killed in the two attacks.

Libya Not To Attend 11 Jan Arab League Meeting

LD1001200893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1926 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli 10 Jan (JANA)—JANA has learned that because of the embargo imposed against the Great Jamahiriyah, and because of the closure of Libya's land borders, the Great Jamahiriyah will not participate in the Arab foreign affairs ministers' meetings due to be held in Cairo.

A source at the General People's Committee for Unity stated that the Great Jamahiriyah is scheduled to take part in the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in the presence of the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity to play its part in the Arab joint action, especially vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause. However, due to the continuing implementation of the embargo against the Libyan Arab people, because of the closure of land borders of the Great Jamahiriyah, and in order to avoid further deaths of Libyan Arab citizens who are forced to use roads for transport—which has resulted in the death of more than 690 Libyan citizens, the latest of whom was the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security—the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity will not be able to participate in the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers.

Arab League Role, Membership Questioned

LD0901122393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 9 Jan (JANA)—The AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper published here today says that a number of questions come to the minds of us Libyans concerning the role played by the Arab League in what is being practiced against an Arab member-country of the League.

In an article entitled "The Arab League: A House Without a Roof" published today, the paper says that the Arab League must play an effective, serious role that underlines what is being said, and puts an end to the terrorism being practiced against us in full view and within earshot of our brothers and our Arab League.

The article also declares: We, the Libyans, bitterly wonder whether we are indeed Arabs, whether we are members of this ancient nation, whether we are indeed members of a league called the Arab League, or whether we are merely a number in this league?

Several questions begin to impose themselves on us over the role played by the League with regard to what is happening and what is being practiced against an Arab member of the League which has fallen under the yoke of daily premeditated Western terrorism on the basis of false pretexts.

The article goes on to say: Our bodies, we Libyans, are scarred with wounds and the West has ganged up on us, openly declaring its hostility to us as a result of our stances on Arab causes. We expected that the Arab League would have an effective role in line with its charter. We expected a united Arab stand through the Arab League which would be seen by the West. The West then would know that we mean what we say. [passage omitted]

Here we are, bleeding and being harmed, and the Arab League is but a corpse in a coffin. The West has fabricated many charges against us and revealed a [words indistinct]. We have expected the Arab League to adopt an effective stand toward the West's scorn for us, but we have waited long and in vain. The League's role remains confined to issuing statements and calling for solidarity conferences, which did not spare us harm and did not deter the West's haughtiness. It did not restore to us what we have lost as a result of the terrorism of the West. The pressing question now is what good there is in our continued membership of the Arab League when we are no more than a number?

Arabs Urged To Firmly Confront Threats to Iraq

LD0901092493 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Jan (JANA)—The General People's Committee for Unity has issued the following statement:

The Great Jamahiriyah is following with extreme interest the development of events in connection with sister Iraq and the aggression and threat to its sovereignty and security to which it is being subjected. On the basis of the integrity of pan-Arab security, which is founded on the sovereignty of the Arab nation over the full extent of Arab land and its legitimate right to confront any infringement of the sovereignty of Arab countries, the threat to Iraq and the continuation of the aggression against it constitute a violation of pan-Arab security, which all Arabs are called on to confront firmly and solidly.

The Great Jamahiriyah has confirmed its opposition to the division of Iraq and to the continuing aggression and violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity to which it is being subjected. The aggression and the threat of colonization, destruction, and division to which sister Iraq is being subjected urges all Arabs to confront the aggressive threats to the Iraqi people. Remaining silent over this aggression will enable the enemies to take on the Arab countries one by one, and every Arab country would meet Iraq's fate.

We disagreed with Iraq over its attitude toward Kuwait. However, the situation is now different because the threat to Iraq is a threat to Kuwait itself and to any other Arab country. Therefore, we urge all Arabs to come to the assistance of Iraq by rejecting the unjust continuing aggression against it and the occupation and division of its territories. Iraq has the right to deploy its missiles in any part of Iraqi territory in accordance with the requirements of its security, as international charters have confirmed the legitimacy of self-defense and protection of the sovereignty of peoples over their territories. The situation is grave. Arabs should turn over a new leaf, forgetting yesterday's disagreements, splits, and setbacks. All the events of today predict that tomorrow will be fraught with dangers, which threaten the entire pan-Arab existence with destruction and dismemberment.

Withdrawal From UN Called 'Revolutionary Position'

LD0801224493 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Ellipses as received]

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Jan (JANA)—In today's issue, the newspaper AL-JAMAHIRIYAH affirms that withdrawing from the United Nations Organization has become a revolutionary stand that must be carried out after experience and successive political events have established that the United Nations is not an organization for peace but an organization for war. It has become a knife for slaying weak peoples whose presence in that organization no longer means anything.

In its article, the paper says: "Withdrawal...a great honor...the new international situation which has come about in the shadow of a number of developments in the international political arena has turned the United Nations into a place for war and killing...and destruction more than a place for safeguarding peace...security... and freedom...."

In actual fact this development has become a normal thing...and it is no longer strange...or new.... The United Nations is an organization of states which have a long history of wars...destruction, and crushing of peoples who believed that it was their haven and defender against external attacks and which would lend them a hand in raising their economic...and social potentials....

The AL-JAMAHIRIYAH says in its article: For a long time now, we have all fallen into the webs of deceit to which we attached ourselves under false hopes...weak threads...and hollow slogans and laws which are enforced according to one's whims.

Consequently, as we, as small nations, discover this truth, it has become imperative to (?adopt) a bold and historical (?stand) by announcing our withdrawal from that organization the membership of which has become a great historical mistake that will not be forgiven by future generations. Instead, we should form another organization embracing all the weak nations, which will defend their honor, their choices, and their principles.

We should not merely declare ourselves as peoples who have suffered from the behavior of the United Nations under its present framework. We must not just denounce its racist stands against us but we should be the first to withdraw from its membership in order to win the great [word indistinct] and take the first step in the 1,000-mile race.

UN Accused of 'Double Standard Approach'

LD1001152393 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina Al-Anar [January] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR newspaper today asserted that the United Nations adopted a double standard approach turning it a fatal weapon in the hands of powerful states against peoples aspiring for their freedom on the one hand and to fulfil their national policies and goals on the other hand.

The paper stressed that one of the positive points to be recorded by political history in favour of the former USSR was her attempts to restrain the U.N and, at least, prevent it from becoming a tool for the fulfilment of the goals of the concerned countries.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR said that although the USSR realised a model success as a result of the opposing [words indistinct] the U.N for its own ends, but the earnest stance of the USSR against that camp prevented the total transfer of the U.N. into the Western hands. However, the absence of the USSR provides a rare opportunity for the Western countries to take over the U.N. and use for their goals and plans.

The paper cited examples of Western exploitation of the U.N as a result of the vacuum left by the USSR in the international balance of power. It added that possible Angola will meet the same fate of Somalia .

The paper renewed its call to the smaller nations to withdraw from the U.N. to set up an organisation for themselves playing a genuine role in maintaining international peace and security on the basis of justice and equality amongst peoples.

Mauritania

PRC's Qian Qichen Stresses Friendship Upon Arrival

AB1001100093 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Mr. Qian Qichen, the Chinese minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Nouakchott this afternoon. Upon arrival, he was welcomed by a Mauritanian delegation led by Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine, foreign affairs and cooperation minister, and His Excellency Liu Bai, PRC ambassador to Mauritania.

Here is the translation from Mandarin into French of the statement made to newsmen by the PRC foreign minister:

[Begin studio announcer recording] At the invitation of Mr. Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine, the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, I would like to express my happiness at being on an official and friendly visit to your country. China and Mauritania are bound by a strong, long-standing friendship.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and Mauritania more than 20 years ago, our two countries have always showed sympathy for and solidarity with one another, whether on preserving their national sovereignty or in promoting their national economies. Our relations of friendly cooperation in various fields developed favorably and came satisfactorily to fruition.

The PRC foreign minister stressed the fact that China and Mauritania were two developing countries.

On the current international situation subject to rapid changes, it is of utmost importance to strengthen cooperation and solidarity between developing countries. The PRC Government attaches great importance to the long-standing friendship and the bonds of friendly cooperation that exist between the two countries.

During my stay in Mauritania, the foreign minister said, I will meet Mauritanian authorities and hold talks with His Excellency Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine, the Mauritanian foreign affairs and cooperation minister, as part of an exchange of views and continuous development of bilateral relations. The talks will also include international issues and regional situations of interest to our two countries.

I am convinced that this visit will give us the opportunity to further strengthen the friendship and understanding between the Chinese and Mauritanian peoples and give a new impetus to the friendly bonds of cooperation between our two countries. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Signs Loan Agreement; Departs

LD1101023093 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 0000 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Qian Qichen, PRC minister of foreign affairs, left the capital during the afternoon of 10 January following a visit to our country during which he was received by His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. He was also received by His Excellency Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker, and he held talks with his counterpart in the foreign department. [passage omitted]

The Chinese foreign minister held a working session this morning with the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. During this working session the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation and his Chinese counterpart signed an agreement on economic and technological cooperation between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and that of the PRC. The following is a translation of the text of the agreement, read by colleague Babah Sidi Abdallah:

[Abdallah] The text of the agreement says: On the basis of the desire of the Mauritanian and Chinese Governments to develop brotherly ties and economic and technological relations between the two countries, the two governments agreed to sign an agreement of cooperation between them. The aforementioned agreement stipulates that the PRC will grant the Islamic Republic of Mauritania over a five-year period—more precisely, between 1 February 1993 and 31 January 1998—an interest-free loan worth 50 million yuan, which is equal to 1 billion ouguiyas. This loan will make it possible to finance the economic and technological cooperation projects agreed upon by the Mauritanian and Chinese Governments.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania will repay this loan over 10 years, starting 1 February 2003 and until 31 January 2013, at the rate of one-tenth of the loan per year. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Visits, Urges Support for Palestinians

AB1101084693 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The president of the state of Palestine visited Nouakchott this afternoon. Mr. Yasir 'Arafat's discussions with President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya at the presidential palace centered on the latest developments regarding the situation of the 415 Palestinians expelled by Israel.

On his arrival, just as at his departure from Nouakchott, the head of the state of Palestine was greeted by Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker, flanked by government members, His Excellency 'Abd al-Shafi Mahmud Siyam, Palestinian ambassador to Mauritania, [name indistinct], walie and mayor of Nouakchott. The two ceremonies were marked by the national anthems of Palestine and Mauritania and an honor guard detachment.

Before leaving Nouakchott, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat noted with satisfaction Mauritania's renewed support for the Palestinian cause. He said this in a statement made to our colleague, Baba Ould Abdallah, and which is translated here by Bie Ahmed Salem:

[Salem] Answering questions from local reporters, the president of the state of Palestine disclosed that he had contacted Senegalese President Abdou Diouf in the latter's capacity as current chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] to convene a meeting of executives of OIC presidencies to examine the tragic situation of the 415 Palestinians expelled by Israel, a situation he described as a crime against humanity.

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat also explained that the meeting will consider the situation in the occupied territories where the Palestinian people are subjected daily to arbitrariness, violence, and organized crime aimed at effecting ethnic cleansing in Palestine so as to throw out all Palestinian Muslims and Christians and replace them with Jewish settlers brought from all over the world.

On the Palestinian position on whether to continue with the peace negotiations, the president of the state of Palestine explained that this position will be determined after the various meetings of Islamic, Arab, and non-aligned countries—all devoted to the question of the expelled Palestinians and the situation in the occupied territories—and also after contacts made within the Security Council.

The Palestinian president recalled that Israel has rejected Resolution 799, which obliges it to repatriate the expelled Palestinians [words indistinct] the international community, and wondered whether international law operated at two gears—one law against Arabs and Palestinians and the other for Israel.

The Palestinian president recalled that at their meeting on the situation of the expelled Palestinians, the (?front-line) countries subordinated the resumption of negotiations to the repatriation of the Palestinians and to the implementation of UN Resolution 799. He explained that he briefly discussed all these issues with the president of the Republic.

Yasir 'Arafat seized the opportunity to congratulate President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya and the Mauritanian people for their unflinching support for the Palestinian cause. Finally, he expressed the hope that one day he would be able to lead President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya to [name indistinct], capital of an independent state of Palestine.

Sudan

Note Sent to UN Detailing 'Egyptian Aggression'

EA1001181693 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Sudan has sent a memorandum to the president of the UN Security Council detailing Egyptian aggression against the Hala'ib area. The memorandum says the Egyptian aggression against the area aims at imposing a fait accompli which may lead to an escalation of the confrontation between the two countries to an armed one, which will threaten security and peace in the region. This comes at a time when Sudan is keen to settle the dispute between the two countries over the Hala'ib area by peaceful and cordial means within the framework of their fraternal and historic relations.

The memorandum explains that Egyptian movements in the Hala'ib triangle, which have been monitored since the beginning of 1991, indicate the Egyptian intention to occupy the area.

In its memorandum, Sudan refers to the Abu Ramad incident in April 1992 which led to the martyrdom of two policemen and the wounding of three others. The memorandum also refers to the military escalation which began on 1 October 1992 and continued through the month of December of the same year and into the current month of January. The memorandum also refers to the measures taken by the Egyptian authorities at the civilian level and the communications between the leaders of the two countries to contain the situation.

Sudan confirms through the memorandum its eagerness to follow all peaceful means to tackle this dispute. It asks the Security Council to shoulder its full responsibility to work for the withdrawal of the military and civil Egyptian presence from the Hala'ib area and to restore the situation to the status quo ante.

TNA Speaker Meets With Egyptian Party Official

EA1001190593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0952 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA)—The speaker of the TNA [Transitional National Assembly], Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, received Saturday [9 January] the chairman of the Egyptian labour party, Ibrahim Shukri, who is currently visiting the country. The meeting discussed the Sudanese-Egyptian relations in the light of the current developments and the stances of the two countries on international and regional issues. The meeting has reassured significance of establishing durable relations between the two countries. The two sides have asserted the importance of solving all issues between the two countries through dialogue and negotiations.

Shukri has announced in press statement that the party's delegation has come to Khartoum to improve the relations between the Sudan and Egypt. He said that Hala'ib issue should be settled by direct negotiation between the two countries. Shukri added that the meeting has reassured importance of inviting the Sudanese-Egyptian joint committee on Hala'ib issue to discuss problem. He added that Khalifah has called on his Egyptian counterpart to hold a meeting between the external relations committees of the two countries to discuss the issue.

Al-Bashir Meets Egyptian Official

EA1001213493 Khartoum SUNA in French 1703 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA)—General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], today met the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party delegation led by Mr. Ibrahim Shukri which is currently visiting Sudan. In a statement to the press, Major General Ta'alat Muslim, member of the party's high committee, pointed out that the delegation had examined with Sudanese officials Sudanese-Egyptian relations and their current situation. He also indicated that the two sides had reviewed the problems affecting relations between the two countries in the prevailing situation and possible means that could help resolve problems in order to safeguard joint interests. He further said that the two [word indistinct] have affirmed the efficient role that people's diplomacy could play in the settlement of problems, besides official efforts in the two countries. [passage omitted]

Agreement on Hala'ib Noted

NC1001183593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Egyptian opposition Socialist Labor Party, and Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Sudanese National Council, have reached agreement in Khartoum that the Egyptian-Sudanese dispute over the Hala'ib region should be resolved through negotiations. Hala'ib is an oil-rich region and witnessed clashes between Egyptian and

Sudanese forces at the beginning of this month. Sudan accused Egypt of occupying the region last month.

In a statement to the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY, the leader of the Egyptian opposition Socialist Labor Party said the two sides agreed to form a joint committee to solve the problem peacefully.

SPLA Claims Army Generals Executed by Regime

AB0901151093 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 9 (AFP)—The rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) says that Sudan's military regime has executed four senior southern Sudanese generals in Juba for collaborating with its fighters.

In a statement released here Saturday [9 January], the SPLA, quoting its sources in Khartoum and Juba, said the executions were carried out on Wednesday in Juba, the southern regional capital, and described them as "acts of cowardice and a barbaric cold-blooded elimination of blacks in the Sudanese army."

It named the four as former military Equatoria regional governor Major General Peter Cirilo, former Eastern Equatoria military commissioner Brigadier Kamilo Odong, Terekeka army garrison commander Colonel Clement Wani and a Major Macur Thon Arok.

The rebel sources said Cirilo, Kamilo and Arok were arrested in July as the SPLA attempted to capture Juba, taken to Khartoum for interrogation and returned early January for execution.

"They were accused of collaborating with the SPLA and of organising a meeting of southern Sudanese military officers to discuss ways and means of assisting the SPLA in its campaign to capture Juba," claimed the statement, signed by George Garang, spokesman for SPLA leader John Garang's mainstream faction.

Colonel Wani, a Mundari tribesman, was transferred to Juba with his unit last year to reinforce the demoralised government troops there and to clear the town and its suburbs of SPLA elements, but remnants of his unit, which was nearly annihilated, took him prisoner and killed him, the statement alleged.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 to free the mainly Christian and animist south from domination by the predominantly Muslim, Arabised north.

Bahrain

Amir, Iranian Envoy Discuss Bilateral Relations

NC1001185793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The Iranian ambassador to Bahrain met Bahrain Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah in Manama today. They discussed bilateral relations, regional developments, and issues of mutual interest. The two sides called for expanding bilateral relations in all fields and solving the region's problems peacefully without foreign interference.

Kuwait

UNIKOM Spokesman Details Iraqi Incursion

LD1001235993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2153 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Jan KUNA—The spokesman of the United Nations Iraqi-Kuwaiti Observation Mission [UNIKOM] Abdellatif Kabbaj said that about 200 Iraqis crossed Kuwaiti borders today at 0710 [local time] by means of heavy transport vehicles. He added in a statement to KUNA that the Iraqi force seized armaments in six trenches on the Kuwaiti side including four Silk-Worm surface-to-surface missiles. Kabbaj pointed out that the UNIKOM observers who guard these trenches 24 hours a day since the issuing of UN Security Council resolution dated 3 November 1992—which pertains to the contents of the weapons' hideout—have informed the commander of the Iraqi infiltrating group that he and the members of his group are on Kuwaiti territory, and that their action is considered a flagrant violation of the Kuwaiti territory.

Kabbaj said that the observers have also warned the commander of the infiltrating group that any action to remove anything from those hideouts constitutes a serious violation of the Security Council resolution in this respect.

He added that the observers have informed him [the Iraqi commander] that such behavior contrasts with the guarantees to which his government has committed itself. He mentioned that the international observers have advised the Iraqi soldier to stop this action and return to Iraq.

The spokesman for UNIKOM, speaking to KUNA over the phone from his office in Umm Qasr [border post], affirmed that despite protests on the part of the observers of the UN mission, the Iraqis began storming the arms hideouts and took away their contents. He said that afterwards the UN observers tried, using their cars, to block the way of the Iraqis but the members of the infiltrating group surrounded the cars of the observers and prevented them from moving.

Kabbaj pointed out that the Iraqis had been able, in 90 minutes, to transport the contents of the hideouts to their vehicles and returned to Iraq. He stressed that during this operation, an Iraqi vehicle crashed into a vehicle of the UN forces but there were no casualties.

Kabbaj said that the UNIKOM chief [military observer] at Umm Qasr, Major-General Dibuama, having protested to the Iraqi liaison officer, instructed the head of the UNIKOM liaison office in Baghdad to request an urgent meeting with the Iraqi foreign minister to protest against this incident and to have all weapons and missiles seized returned to their depots.

Kabbaj added that Major-General Dibuama was in constant contact with UNIKOM headquarters in New York to keep them informed of developments in the Iraqi violation of Kuwaiti borders incident.

He also said that the Kuwaiti government had been informed of the details of today's incident. He said that since 2 January and up to 3 January this year, the deadline set by the UN, the Iraqis had carried out wide-scale movements near Umm Qasr and on the Kuwaiti side of the borders. About 300 Iraqi military personnel, later joined by a further 200, using heavy transport vehicles, tried to retrieve, as they claim, all equipment they had left behind north of the common border. He added that these were containers, water tanks, electricity cables and other equipment.

Army Told To Shoot 'Anyone Approaching' Borders

LD0901162893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1458 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Jan (KUNA)—Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, chief of the General Staff of the Army and Armed Forces, announced that the Armed Forces are under orders to open fire on anyone approaching the borders. Commenting on the attack against the post of Al-'Azimiyah, north of Kuwait, last Tuesday by a number of armed Iraqis, he said that "the Iraqi regime is accustomed to carry out such actions aimed at undermining Kuwait's security and stability."

In a statement to journalists after meeting with the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, he added that "the Armed Forces have taken precautions and are prepared to cooperate with the forces of the allied states with regard to the crisis brought about intentionally by the Iraqi regime when it moved its surface-to-air missiles inside the no-fly zone south of the 32nd parallel in southern Iraq."

Source Notes 'Stability' Despite Iraq Crisis

NC0901121093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1024 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Jan (MENA)—A responsible Kuwaiti source has emphasized that security in Kuwait is stable, and that the allied states' warnings to the Iraqi regime to withdraw its missiles to the north of the 32d parallel have not affected the country's stability.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the source said there was nothing unusual in the travel movement out of the country. The source pointed out that Kuwait will be away from the danger area if the allied forces take any measures against Iraq.

The Kuwaiti source denied that any foreign embassies in Kuwait have advised their nationals to be cautious, but said some foreign missions, including the American Embassy, have issued statements to reassure their nationals that Kuwait is safe and away from potential danger because the military capabilities of the Iraqi regime are weak.

The source said the attack on al-'Azimiyyah border post by a number of Iraqi regime personnel proved that border guards are alert. Some 25 Iraqis tried to infiltrate the country, but they were repulsed by the police force at the post.

Information Minister Says Iran No Threat to Arabs

LD1001180293 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Athens, Jan 10, IRNA—Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah said the Iraqi regime poses the only threat in the region and that Iran seeks no conflict with the Arabs.

In a lengthy interview with Saudi daily SHARQ AL-AWSAT published Saturday, Nasir al-Sabah said Baghdad may try to play the card of the "Iranian threat" with the new U.S. Administration.

"Iraq is trying to inflate the threats from Iran to get the sanctions lifted against it," he said.

The Kuwaiti minister said there was an issue of Iranian armament but he noted that "Iran is big and neighbouring state and we must be careful in our dealing with it so that there would be no room to create any form of difference between the countries of the region and Iran."

Nasir al-Sabah underlined that the present government in the Islamic Republic of Iran "is more reasonable and with more understanding and it does not wish to get involved in conflict with the Arab world because it is not in the interests of Iran nor of the region."

He continued that "the basic and the only threat that we face is the continuation of the presence of the regime in Iraq and its security, media and other threats to the area."

The minister said Iran has returned all the Kuwaiti planes and there were no problems with Tehran.

Commenting on Kuwait's relations with other Arab states, Nasir al-Sabah ruled out any early resumption of relations with Jordan due to Amman's pro-Baghdad stance during the Iraqi war.

Saudi Arabia

Government Clarifies Visit of Palestinian Figure

LD1001153093 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] An authoritative source made the following statement to SPA today:

London radio conducted an interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, who is currently visiting Riyadh, and quoted him as saying that his visit is aimed at confirming the restoration of Saudi-Palestinian relations and turning over a new leaf with the Kingdom.

The source added: We would like to indicate that Abu-Mazin is visiting the Kingdom at his own request to attend the celebrations marking the 28th anniversary of the start of the Palestinian revolution, as the ambassador of the state of Palestine to the Kingdom has already said. This visit has no purpose other than the one specified above.

Foreign Minister Receives UK Trade Minister

LD1001140893 Riyadh SPA in English 1302 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 10, SPA—Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal received here today Michael Heseltine, president of the Board of Trade and British minister of trade and industry.

The meeting was attended by Isma'il al-Hura, assistant foreign undersecretary for political affairs, Nazar Madani, chief of the Western department at the Foreign Ministry and Allan Monro, British ambassador to the Kingdom.

Heseltine is currently heading a high powered team of British businessmen on a trade visit to the Kingdom.

The purpose of the visit is to strengthen the existing commercial and economic ties between the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Heseltine's three-day visit will include meeting with senior Saudi officials and local British businessmen to discuss bilateral trade and investment plans.

Report on Government Spending in State Budget

LD1001131593 Riyadh SPA in English 1239 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 10, SPA—Education, health, security, and defence are considered the four main pillars for the construction of any community that endeavors to contribute to human culture.

In a rich country, like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, these pillars should be strong and capable of bearing the construction foundations.

The state budget for 1413/1414 H [2 Jul 1992-21 Jun 1993] has concentrated on the cementing of these pillars.

This year budget amounted to SR [Saudi rial] 196.9 billion which means an increase of nine per cent in general expenditures in comparison with last year's budget.

The new state budget has allocated SR 34.9 billion to the education sector and this sum represents 20 per cent of the total budget expenditures.

According to this lavish spending on education, some 800 new schools and six intermediate colleges shall be opened during this year.

The second pillar, health and social development has been given sr 14.87 billion to boost and improve the standard and quality of services being rendered by the Ministry of Health to the kingdom population. Some 500 new primary health centers shall be opened during this year at a total cost of SR 1.6 billion.

The existing hospitals shall be provided with modern medical equipment and appliances in order to cope with the requirements of citizens and residents alike.

The third and fourth sectors, defence and security, received SR 61.6 billion which constitutes 30 per cent of the budget.

In addition to the above mentioned sectors, the budget has allocated funds for the development of communication facilities as SR 9.78 billion has been set aside for this sector. Some 500,000 new telephone lines shall be established in the new budget at a total cost of SR seven billion.

Beside the government expenditures there are the credit funds which shall provided their services to citizens each in its field of specialization.

The national growth product increased by five per cent in comparison with last year and the banking sector movement has flourished due to the return of capital from abroad after businessmen had been satisfied with the investment atmosphere and the great facilities provided by the state to investors. The deposits reached SR 177 billion from SR 166 billion in last year.

In the agricultural sector, the growth rate amounted to 7.5 per cent and in the industrial sector to 6.4 per cent.

Yemen

Assassination, Bombing Suspect Surrenders

PM0801165193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Al-Fadli Surrenders to Yemeni Authorities After Mediation Committee's Negotiations"]

[Excerpt] Aden—Shaykh Tariq Nasir 'Abdallah al-Fadli, son of the former sultan of Abdyan, has given himself up to 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Shami, director of security in Abyan Governorate, in the Mount al-Maraqishah area. He had been surrounded by forces from the Yemeni Army and police, which were preparing to launch a military attack at any moment to arrest him immediately after the return of the mediation delegation which had gone to negotiate with him to persuade him to surrender after six days of siege in the area.

In an exclusive statement from Zinjibar, Abyan Governor Brigadier Yahya al-Ra'i told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Al-Fadli gave himself up to the security director at 1500 hours yesterday in the presence of a parliamentary and popular delegation comprising 25 figures from the various Yemeni parties, after they succeeded in persuading him to give himself up.

Al-Ra'i emphasized that the investigation of Al-Fadli will include his position on the attempt to assassinate 'Ali Salih 'Abbad Muqbil, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau and chairman of the party's organization in Abyan, and his link with the bombing incidents which occurred at the "Golden Moor" Hotel and "Aden" Hotel in Aden last week.

Party sources in Abyan Governorate said that Al-Fadli agreed to give himself up after the mediation committee which visited him agreed to transfer him directly to Sanaa and interrogate him there, not in Zinjibar, the Abyan capital. [passage omitted]

Missile Ultimatum Developments, Reaction Reported

Assembly Reaffirms Stand

JN0801201493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1910 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] In an extraordinary session held today under the chairmanship of Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, the National Assembly made a unanimous decision not to give in to the unjust resolution issued by the allied states concerning the withdrawal of Iraqi missiles from the southern region. The Assembly also decided to issue a statement later this evening appealing to the international community—individuals and organizations—to support Iraq's people in their just and legitimate struggle as they strongly confront the U.S.-French-British alliance's resolutions. The statement will also call for warning and urging the allied states not to commit any new acts of stupidity or aggression against Iraq's people, who are exercising their right to sovereignty over their land.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih delivered a speech at the beginning of the session in which he reviewed the situation in both the Arab and international arenas, as well as developments following the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against great Iraq and its patient, mujahid people. He said: Our session is being held to brief you, in your capacity as representatives of the Iraqi people, on the positions of the hostile sides against Iraq. We will also brief you on the leadership's decision to adopt a decisive position against the unjust resolution, issued by the hateful allied states on the withdrawal of Iraqi missiles from the southern region.

He added: You are aware that our country's advancement and development has been the target of several attempts and conspiracies. Also targeted was our free, independent decision-making and our acquisition of technology that would have placed Iraq in the ranks of advanced nations. You realize that those who were behind the belligerent and conspiratorial plans used various methods to attain their goals, after having come to the conclusion that it was thanks to Iraq's political and party leadership that our country's clout, advancement, and development became possible. They also came to the conclusion that if the agenda the Iraqis had drawn up for their country was allowed to materialize, it would grow into a force to be reckoned with in the region. Therefore, they used all the forces and funds they could muster to threaten Iraq.

The speaker of the National Assembly indicated that this was also the case with the war launched by Iran against Iraq. It was followed by the treacherous 30-state aggression and the unjust embargo that accompanied it—a blockade covering even food and medicine, not to mention the measures taken by the aggressors at subsequent stages to promote their aggressive aims. Their objective was to get rid of a system of government that would not accept anything other than what it chose for the glorious Iraqis, and a leader with whom they could not deal in accordance with their perspectives, schemes, and objectives to take over the region's resources.

He emphasized that it was in this context that the conspiracies of the enemies and their vicious intentions followed. There followed what they called the 36th parallel and the 32d parallel, as well as other concomitant measures, including the seizure of a part of Iraq's funds held overseas, plus other arbitrary measures that run counter to the most basic international rules and human conventions.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih reviewed the dirty role played by the war criminal Bush; a role which he is still playing as he prepares to leave the White House in a few days.

Assembly Speaker Cables Saddam

JN0801194093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1906 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and watch over him, has received a cable from Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly, at the conclusion of the Assembly's extraordinary session held this afternoon to discuss the unjust resolution issued by the 30-state alliance regarding the withdrawal of Iraqi missiles from the south of the country.

Following is the text of the cable:

To the great struggler leader President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic, may God protect and watch over you.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate,

Nay, we hurl the truth against falsehood, and it knocks out its brain, and behold, falsehood doth perish. Ah, woe be to you for the false things you ascribe to us. [Koranic verses]

The members of the National Assembly, representatives of the great Iraqi people, who met at the National Assembly building this afternoon Friday, 15 Rajab 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 8 January 1993, strongly denounce the brazen ultimatum issued by the three aggression states—the United States, Britain, and France—to Iraq on 6 January 1993. The members further view this ultimatum as blatant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and an illegitimate act of aggression that infringes on Iraq's sovereignty and security. They also consider it a political attempt with the primary aim of partitioning Iraq.

Leader President: The members of the National Assembly stress the unity of Iraq—land, people, sky, and water—and declare anew that the Iraqi people, at all social levels, stand behind your wise leadership and brave, capable rejection of all malicious attempts by which the enemies of the nation and Iraq want to impose hegemony and make Iraq surrender its sovereign right to use its airspace.

They affirm that repulsing the military aggression taking place against Iraq is a legitimate right acknowledged by international laws and norms.

Leader President: History will stigmatize the perpetrators of the new aggression with disgrace and shame, will make them face the world, and before this, face God, exposing their falsehood and showing that they pay no heed to the sanctity of any legitimate value or legitimate basis for sound dealing with countries and peoples.

Leader President: Iraq will remain lofty, proud of its struggler leader and its militant people, while defending right, sublime values, and national sovereignty.

And say: Truth has now arrived, and falsehood perished: For falsehood is by its nature bound to perish. [Koranic verse]

God is great. Accursed be the lowly.

[Signed] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih

Preparation Urged for 'Jihad'

JN0901083093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0751 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has urged the people of Iraq, as a whole, to be highly prepared for a jihad and an honorable fight against the enemies of the homeland at the time that their leadership sets.

In its editorial, written today by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin [president's press and media secretary], the paper says that if we want to follow the path of survival, we have no choice but to hold fast and resist.

AL-JUMHURIYAH accuses U.S. President Bush and his allies of working in accordance with colonialist motives to control the Iraqi oil reserve, which stands as the world's largest oil reserve. The paper says: Therefore, they are trying to turn Iraq into another Bosnia-Hercegovina, another Lebanon, another Afghanistan, or any of these models with which they have had success.

'U.S.-Zionist Threats' Viewed

JN0901094893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0753 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA)—Iraqi papers issued here today stress Iraq's stern rejection of the U.S.-Zionist threats and any attempt to harm its national independence.

In their editorials, the Iraqi papers say that Washington and the parties to the aggression would be committing a new folly and would be involved in a deadly illusion if they believe that they can dissuade Iraq from steadfastness and rejection of aggression and hegemony.

The papers denounce the infamous U.S. attempts to harm the unity of our territory and people and to partition great Iraq into petty racial states to achieve the old, renewable colonialist dream.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH ridicules the pretexts and justifications that the U.S. tyranny is using to demoralize our great people under the pretext of Iraq's deployment of defensive weapons inside its territory.

The paper says that this time the forces of aggression are trying to test the strength of Iraq and its heroic army. The paper says Iraq does not need to be tested; it is the country of the al- Qadisiyah [war with Iran] and its army is the army of the Mother of Battles, and it will not succumb to any threats of any type from any source.

The paper affirms that Iraq's steadfastness in the immortal Mother of Battles, its people's resistance of the iniquitous blockade, and their rallying around their historic leader Saddam Husayn have thwarted all their abortive wagering and evil schemes.

Concluding its article, the paper warns the war makers that any aggression against Iraq will be strongly confronted. The paper stresses: Under no circumstances, will we slacken our advance based on our own capabilities. We are more prepared than ever before to teach the aggressors bitter lessons.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ explains that criminal Bush, who is living his last days, is still obsessed with the hysteria of aggression against Iraq and insistence on pursuing an evil, provocative policy that aims to provide an atmosphere for the launching of a fresh military aggression against our people and [military] units.

The newspaper holds the United Nations, the Security Council, and world public opinion responsible for the U.S. Administration's terrorist practices and persistence in aggression against independent states in a bid to control the world and loot its wealth, just like highwaymen and thieves.

The paper calls on the international community to condemn America's continuous violation of international law and its despicable attempts to encroach on Iraq's sovereignty, freedom, and independence.

In its editorial, the paper says: The lofty sons of Mesopotamia, Arabs and Kurds, have faith in our just cause, in our legitimate confrontation of the enemies, and in making the decisive victory inevitable regardless of the size of the forces of tyranny, evil, and injustice.

The paper says: Iraq, which is these days celebrating the great victory in the Mother of Battles, while the defeated criminal, Bush, is getting ready to leave the White House for good for the dustbin of history, will foil any new adventure, and will bury it just as we buried mandate and occupation eras.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Criminal Bush and those who support him must know well that their new aggressive action will only bolster national unity, that the Iraqis are united and have a unified will, and that the aggression will only double the Iraqis' rancor against and contempt for the aggressors.

The paper stresses that the reports the CIA experts and politicians submitted to Bush and all the other war criminals proved that the entire Iraqi people are with Saddam Husayn in defending their homeland.

Concluding its article, the paper says: The Iraqi people, who said a big no to criminal Bush, the coalition states, and the false Arabs, will continue to do so. This is because our people are stronger than their conspiracies and evil means. Our people will always be the strongest, and right will always be in their favor.

European Parliament Resolution Condemned

JN0901102293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA)—The National Assembly has strongly condemned the European Parliament's recent resolution on Iraq as an interference in Iraq's internal affairs and a violation of all international charters, especially the UN Charter.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, the head of the Assembly's Arab and international committee said: The European Parliament's resolutions have been based on unfounded information and reports presented by persons who represent nobody but themselves and who pursue their own objectives and interests. He said: We do not know how the the European Parliament gives itself the right and authorization for such interference.

He added: The National Assembly rejects all forms of interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and all methods of international terrorism that some international powers are involved in under the cover of the United Nations.

Regime Denies It 'Submitted' to Threats

JN1001074893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, chaired a joint meeting for the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, yesterday. Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the presidential office, attended the meeting.

Commenting on the recent U.S. statements on the situation, a responsible spokesman for the RCC and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has stated the following:

On 9 January 1993, statements were made by several U.S. sources, portraying the situation erroneously, as if Iraq has submitted to the threats made by the Bush administration. This portrayal of the situation is absolutely incorrect. The fact is that the behavior of our aircraft at present and the locations of our antiaircraft weapons fall under security precautions to secure the requirements of confronting any aggressive attempt. This situation does not imply any retreat from our stand. Our right to act on our territory in accordance with the rights of sovereignty, including the deployment of our defensive missiles and the activities of our aircraft in our national airspace, is a legitimate right. We cannot relinquish this right or stop any practice that would enhance it.

The spokesman said: If these U.S. statements, which depict the situation as if it was a retreat by Iraq, are meant to find a way out of this situation as an alternative to threats and intimidation, then we welcome this. However, if the objective is to delude public opinion or to harm our credibility, then we have explained the situation as we are used to clarifying facts for the sons of our people, glorious nation, and world public opinion.

The spokesman added: We have always preferred to resort to understanding rather than confrontation whenever there was a chance for understanding. We have always preferred a solution that would achieve the legitimate objective to any military solution. At the same time, we proved that we are always capable of defending our country and rights by available means, especially when those who are deluded believe that through threats, intimidation, and the use of arms, they can undermine our sovereignty and rights.

The spokesman said: The Bush administration's portrayal of the situation in such an incorrect manner may be intended to burden President-elect Clinton with his policy which is governed by personal reasons and motivated by unjustified hatred. From this premise, it is possible that inaccurate information about the situation has been communicated to President-elect Clinton to make it look like we have given in to Bush's threats. If this interpretation persists after Clinton's assumption of power—that is, if it is made to look like Iraq raised the issue during Clinton's term while not insisting on its stand during Bush's term—it will detract from our honest intentions and the legitimacy of our stand, which we clarified in August 1992 when we rejected the no-fly zone decision. At that time, we said that we reserve for ourselves the right to confront this decision at the appropriate time and with the appropriate method; a stand which we reaffirmed in our reply to the recent threats.

Concluding, the spokesman said: Our aircraft and surface-to-air missiles are in the location we have set and not as has been mentioned in the U.S. statements. In any case, there is a possibility for dialogue to achieve peace far from threats and intimidation, and in a manner that will safeguard our legitimate right to sovereignty. We are ready to do this with all those who seek dialogue and peace with good intentions. God leads our steps on the right path.

Bush Said Involving Clinton in Conflict

JN1001101193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has described the Bush administration's escalation of the situation against Iraq and the invasion of Somalia, during its last days, as being part of a scheme to involve Bill Clinton in foreign problems and conflicts.

In an editorial today, the paper stresses that the flagrant U.S. interference in Iraq and Somalia will not be the last, for there is still: Bosnia-Herecegovina, Russia, the republics of the former USSR, the occupied Arab territories, Afghanistan, the problems of the collapsing East Europe, and Africa which is entering a new age of wars of starvation and internal conflicts.

The paper adds: No one fails to see the new aggressive campaign against Iraq as being part of the arrangements of distracting attention from the Israeli stand toward the resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council, its continuous insults to the international community, the escalation of tension in international atmospheres, and the Zionist occupation authorities' brutal crimes and actions against the Palestinians.

The paper says: Bush's foreign policies premeditatedly create pretexts, problems, and conflicts within the framework of its direct service to World Zionism and its spoiled baby, Israel.

The paper notes that this fabricated U.S.- Western escalation, which is being practiced outside the framework of the so-called international legitimacy due to the lack of a UN or a Security Council resolution regarding the no-fly zone in southern Iraq, is based on a purely U.S. decision at a time when Israel is defying the international community, the United Nations, and the Security Council through its refusal to implement the resolution on repatriation of the Palestinian deportees.

The paper explains that Iraq, as President Saddam Husayn said, is not a country of slogans [sharat], whether regarding its relations with the Arab world or the international environment. It has constant readiness to establish natural relations with any state that has a historical legitimacy if this state shows good intentions and a desire for cooperation and joint action.

The paper says: Iraq will in no way tolerate any encroachment on its legitimate rights. It will exercise its sovereignty on its territory and protect it from direct and indirect foreign interferences. By doing so, Iraq is doing what the independent states which respect the will of their peoples do.

'Battle of Confrontation' Viewed

JN1001123093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that Iraq is waging a battle of confrontation with the illegitimate U.S. decision which is aimed at turning the banning of Iraqi flights south of the 32d parallel into something permanent by opening the doors to the enemies so they can continue their conspiracies and interference in order to partition this country.

In an article published here today, the paper, which is the organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The administration of the defeated Bush is creating all this fabricated clamor because Iraq is exercising its sovereign rights.

It adds: By doing so, the U.S. Administration is exposing its aggressive schemes and the deadlock it has reached as a result of the Iraqi leadership's courage, principled stands, and ability to stand fast without making any concessions that would undermine Iraq's sovereignty or affect its future and development.

The paper notes that Iraq first rejected the U.S.-British-French decision last August, and that it has continued its daily confrontation with the evil and ill-famed decision banning flights.

The paper stresses that Iraq's resistance to the U.S. decision on banning flights has deprived it of any legitimate, legal, or international bases, and that through this, Iraq was able to mobilize an Arab and world rejection of this decision.

The paper affirms that the fabricated clamor with which Bush ends his political and presidential life will not conceal his defeats and impotence in front of a strong Iraq which is maintaining its unity, sovereignty, and leadership, despite the 3-state aggression, the chapters of conspiracies, and the pressures which failed as a result of Iraq's firmness.

AL-THAWRAH says: The defeated Bush will not be able to impose his status quo on triumphant and firm Iraq whether through conspiracies, threats, or fabricated clamor.

It adds that Iraq, which was not shaken by the 30-state aggression, will not be shaken by a defeated dying person who is taking his last yellow desperate breaths. It emphasizes that Iraq rejects the rude and flagrant colonialist U.S. threats and warnings, and that it will continue to adhere to all its rights of sovereignty and to exercise them on its national soil.

Concluding, the paper says: Iraq will not accept the status quo and will continue its just, capable confrontation against the illegitimate U.S. decision. It will chose all necessary measures and means which will guarantee its victory and foil the defeated [Bush's] evil attempts.

Defense Minister on Combat Readiness

JN1001193793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister, visited Abu-'Ubaydah Air Base today. During his meeting with the commander and officers at the air base, the minister acquainted himself with the nature of the high combat readiness of the courageous hawks, the great technical support provided by the fighter engineers, and the high morale of the men of the great duel—the eternal Mother of Battles—who are standing proudly and sacrificially like a towering mountain in defense of Iraq's skies, land, and pure waters. The defense minister called for continued vigilance and avoiding negligence so as to deprive the losing enemies of any opportunities. The meeting was attended by the secretary of the Abu-'Ubaydah group of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, who holds the rank of colonel.

Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister, also visited the Hittin Forces Command and met with the commander of the IV Army Corps, who holds the rank of staff lieutenant general; his staff officers; and commanders of the divisions operating in the sector. During the meeting, the officials reviewed the nature of the high standard of performance and the psychological preparedness of the brave fighters of the Army Corps to defend Iraq's sanctities and the Iraqi people against the unjust U.S. aggression and the colonialists' campaign to start a new, exposed chapter of conspiracy targeting the Iraqi people's unity and national sovereignty.

The fighter defense minister stressed that the will of the faithful gathering will achieve victory over the evildoers, led by America and its satellite allies, which are showing their cards and which cannot mislead our vigilant people and our brave Army that together stand loftily in the face of injustice, aggression, and imperialist U.S. arrogance.

Saddam, Air Force Officers Meet

JN1001203993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2028 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting with Staff Lieutenant General Pilot Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, and a number of senior officers of the Air Force and Air Defense Command.

Baghdad Bars Arms Experts From Using UN Planes

NC0801191693 Paris AFP in English 1908 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Manama, Jan 8 Jan (AFP)—Baghdad has barred international arms experts from using U.N. planes to visit Iraq, the U.N.'s coordination office here said Friday.

The announcement comes after Baghdad rejected an allied deadline to withdraw anti-aircraft missiles from its southern no-fly zone near the 32nd parallel which expires at 2215 GMT on Friday.

UN Activities Said Not Obstructed

JN0901114993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has denied allegations that Iraq is obstructing UN activities in its territory. He said that Iraq is committed to UN Security Council Resolution 687, and that raising the question of UN teams' transportation does not mean an obstruction to the tasks of these teams, as the UN Security Council alleged in a statement last night.

In a statement before the Council of Ministers today—dealing with last night's statement by the UN Security Council calling on Iraq to a comply with the terms of the cease-fire—al-Sahhaf explained that the topic of the UN teams' arrival in and departure from Iraq is not new. Rather, he said, this topic dates back to last year.

He indicated that Iraq raised with the United Nations the need to charter Iraqi Airways planes instead of chartering foreign ones. He said that Iraq reached an agreement with UN coordinator Berander [name as received] on the topic in late 1991, but the United States obstructed the agreement.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf went on reviewing the circumstances surrounding the issue of the means of transportation for the UN teams between Iraq and the other countries. He said that the issue was raised several times in the foreign minister's letters to the UN secretary general. He said that Iraq's viewpoint, which was conveyed to the UN Special Commission affiliated with the Security Council, can be summed up as follows: The UN teams must either use Iraqi planes to enter or leave Iraq, or use the land route between Baghdad and Amman—just like Iraqis, Arabs, and foreigners have to.

He pointed out that Iraq has informed the UN Special Commission that it is unreasonable and inhuman to have the UN employees and workers enjoy the privilege of traveling via air from and to Iraq on board planes of various nationalities when the Special Commission deprives Iraqis, Arabs, Europeans, Asians, and even Americans of this right, something which forces them to take the trouble of traveling via land and spending 14 hours on the Baghdad-Amman road. This includes officials, businessmen, journalists, humanitarian organizations, tourists, and patients, tens of whom died because they could not reach hospitals in time, not to mention the road accidents which killed or injured hundreds of travelers of various nationalities.

The foreign minister discussed the developments of the situation resulting from the U.S. Administration's fabrication of the new crisis with Iraq under the pretext of an alleged movement of air defense batteries to the area south of Parallel 32. He said that in this way the U.S. Administration seeks to prevent Iraq from exercising its legitimate right to sovereignty and defending its territorial integrity.

He affirmed that the U.S. Administration built its political and media position on the allegation that the so-called area south of Parallel 32 has been designated in accordance with a UN resolution. However, when it failed to defend this allegation in the wake of a UN official spokesman's assertion that there is no UN Security Council or UN resolution designating such an area, Washington fabricated another allegation to the effect that Iraq has brought air defense batteries into the area.

Al-Sahhaf added: When Iraq spelled out its position through Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz' statements the day before yesterday and through our memorandum to the UN Security Council to the effect that these batteries had been in the area since the U.S. military aggression in January 1991, the Americans backed down and said: But they had not been pointed toward U.S. aircraft. Last night, they said that they could not specify the locations of the batteries because of bad weather conditions, and that they will examine their intelligence data.

'Clamor' Over UN Planes Said 'Fabricated'

JN1101113793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—The AL-'IRAQ newspaper has said that the Security Council is no more than a body that acts on U.S. orders and blindly follows Washington's wishes and desires and its colonialist tendency to create obstacles, make provocative moves, and level arbitrary accusations against independent nations.

In an article today, the paper notes the clamor fabricated by the Security Council, at the orders and instigation of the United States, concerning the Iraqi call on UN personnel to use Iraqi planes.

The paper states that this clamor is part of a U.S. distortion campaign that seeks to deprive Iraq of many of its national sovereignty rights.

The paper adds: Our position is very clear and does not lend itself to tendentious and malicious interpretations. We have asked to practice one of our rights, namely, that international officials seek the help of Iraqi planes. The measure should include trips by officials, businessmen, journalists, humanitarian associations, and sick people, especially old people and children who suffer the hardship of overland travel between Baghdad and Amman.

The paper says that U.S. maneuvers at the Security Council have turned into a cheap, exposed game which does not fool those who are aware of the evil intentions of the defeated President Bush, who wishes to do as much harm as he can to Iraq's reputation and standing and the sound bases adopted by Iraq in its dealing with all international parties seeking to achieve stability and security and defuse crises, away from premeditated aggressive objectives and fabrications.

The paper concludes: In the past days, it has been confirmed beyond the shadow of a doubt that the defeated Bush is using all the twisted methods and resorting to boyish means to undermine Iraqi rights.

UN Personnel Offered 'Cheap' Flights

NC1001132793 Paris AFP in English 1314 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Jan 10 (AFP)—Iraqi Airways Sunday offered cheap flights to the United Nations after the government banned the organisation from using its own aircraft for missions here.

The United Nations has warned Baghdad of "serious consequences" over its decision to bar all UN flights to Iraq.

Iraqi Airways Chairman Nur al-Din Safi told AFP he had five aircraft in Amman which could transport UN personnel.

He was ready to open negotiations with the United Nations and his airline's tariffs would be "cheaper" than those of any other company.

The airline was grounded by a UN embargo slapped on the country after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

He praised the Foreign Ministry's decision to ban the UN flights, saying it "gave Iraqi Airways the chance to fly again after more than two years of inactivity caused by an unfair decision."

The airline also has 22 planes grounded in Iran and four others in Tunisia, according to officials. Safi said the United Nations could use the company's Boeing 727 and 707 fleet. [passage omitted]

'Chemical Products' Seen in Attack on Kurdish Town

NC0801175493 Paris AFP in English 1721 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Ankara, Jan 8 (AFP)—The Iraqi army Thursday shelled a village in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq about 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of Khakurk in that oil-rich region, Kurdish sources there said Friday.

The sources, contacted from Ankara, said the shelling targeted the town of Chamchamal but they reported no casualties.

The Iraqi army has since Thursday morning also bolstered its military presence, including artillery units and armored vehicles, in that sector, the sources said.

Iraqi vehicles "were also carrying chemical products." The report could not be independently confirmed.

It came as a Western allied deadline approached for the withdrawal of Iraqi anti-aircraft missiles from the country's southern no-fly zone. A similar air exclusion zone was established in the north after the 1991 Gulf war to protect the Kurds. [passage omitted]

Kurds Report Massing of Troops Near Secure Zone

NC1001163993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Iraqi Kurdish sources today affirmed that tyrant Saddam Husayn has ordered the concentration of large numbers of troops near the secure zone in northern Iraq. Patriotic Union of Kurdistan sources said Saddam's regime sent many troops to northern Iraq in the past two days and ordered their deployment along four axes that include al-Sulaymaniyah, Khakurk, Irbil, and Dahuk.

Western sources report Saddam's regime concentrating over six armored divisions south of the 36th parallel.

Criminal 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, defense minister of the tyrant regime, recently threatened to launch a major attack against the residents of northern Iraq.

Protesters at UN Office Denounce 'Unjust' Blockade

JN1101114693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—More than 5,000 people representing Iraqi Airways, the leagues of travel and tourism agencies, hotels, restaurants, and workers in Arab and international travel agencies today demonstrated in front of the United Nations Development Program [UNDP] in Baghdad.

The demonstrators handed two protest memorandums to the acting resident UNDP representative addressed to the UN secretary general and the Security Council, in which they called for lifting the unjust air embargo imposed on Iraq and allowing its national air carrier, Iraqi Airways, to resume transporting food supplies in line with Security Council Resolutions 661 and 670, which did not stipulate preventing Iraqi planes from flying over world airspace.

The demonstrators denounced the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and called on all international and humanitarian organizations to work to lift this blockade and champion the Iraqi people.

Atomic Scientists Said Executed in Baghdad

NC0901155493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Well-informed sources inside Iraq have reported that seven senior Iraqi atomic scientists were executed by the authorities of dictator Saddam Husayn in a secret prison in Baghdad a few days ago. The same sources added that the ostensible reason for the execution of the seven scientists was their protest at the assassination of atomic scientist Mu'ayyad al-Janabi by the regime's intelligence elements in Jordan. Reliable sources have said that the real reason for the execution was the regime's fear that the scientists would escape abroad and expose the regime's secret armament program and the international firms that have contributed to it.

The regime has tightened its security measures around scientists, interfered in their private affairs, and detained their family members with a view to preventing them from leaking information abroad on the weapons of mass destruction.

IRC Team Allowed To Visit Deportee Camp

Flight Leaves South Lebanon

TA0901082093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The International Red Cross [IRC] team took off several minutes ago from the UN headquarters at al-Naqurah in south Lebanon. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the Bell-205 helicopter contains a three-member Italian team and the two IRC representatives from Switzerland. It will take the helicopter about 45 minutes to reach the deportees' encampment, where one of the team members will have to disembark with the aid of a crane in order to prepare a landing pad on the snow. The IRC representatives will remain in the encampment for about five hours and are due to leave there at 1500 [1300 GMT].

Weather Prevents IRC Visit

TA0901092593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Report by Gil Yerushalmi]

[Text] The two International Red Cross [IRC] representatives who left by helicopter for the deportee encampment and were due to land around now were apparently forced to return due to bad weather conditions. The IRC representatives left this morning on their way to the encampment. They put off their visit yesterday due to weather conditions, and it now appears that they will have to postpone their survey of the deportee situation once again.

Team Reaches Deportee Camp

TA0901102993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The International Red Cross [IRC] helicopter landed at the deportees' encampment north of the security zone. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the flight began at UN Headquarters in al-Naqurah but was aborted midway due to the bad weather conditions. The helicopter landed at a UN position in Dayr Siryan, some 30 km south of the encampment, but then took off again and reached its destination.

The IRC team includes two Swiss citizens, one a representative of the organization and the other a woman doctor. They are due to return at 1500. It is the first time Israel has permitted passage from the security zone to the deportees' encampment. The IRC brought them aid from Lebanon in the initial days after the expulsion until the Beirut government put a ban on it.

IRC Told of Illnesses

TA0901123193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The leaders of the deportees at Marj al-Zuhur told the International Red Cross [IRC] representatives that they do not lack food or medicine, and all they want is to return home. The spokesmen, Dr. al-Rantisi, and 'Aziz Duwayk, told the two IRC delegates that the health of many of their brethren is deteriorating. Al-Rantisi presented a list of 209 names of deportees who he said are sick, including 60 with chronic illnesses.

The IRC representatives reached the encampment this morning in a UN aircraft. After talking to the deportees' leaders, the IRC delegates walked around the tents and talked with the doctors among the group. They are due to fly back to al-Naqurah by helicopter at 1500 [1300 GMT].

Sick Deportee Hospitalized

TA1001091893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Zuhayr Labadah, the deportee suffering from a kidney disease who was moved last night from the deportee encampment to the International Red Cross [IRC] clinic at al-Naqurah, was this morning installed at the Marj 'Uyun hospital in the security zone. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that earlier Labadah was examined by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] doctor.

A UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] spokesman announced this morning that the nine mistakenly deported men will not be flown to al-Naqurah today, because the IRC has not requested a helicopter for that purpose as yet.

Rabin Agrees to Return of Deportees

TA0901163393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has agreed that the International Red Cross [IRC] representatives will tomorrow fly the mistakenly deported people to al-Naqurah on board a UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] helicopter. From there the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will return them to the places from which they were taken before the expulsion.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has learned this from the defense minister's spokesman. The spokesman also announced that the prime minister agreed that Bassam al-Sayuri, 16, who was erroneously deported and who was flown to al-Naqurah by the IRC people this afternoon will be returned by the IDF to his home in Hebron. The prime minister also agreed that deportee Zuhayr Labadah, who was brought by the IRC people to al-Naqurah because of kidney disease, will be hospitalized in the UN hospital. An IDF doctor will examine him and determine whether he requires hospitalization, in which case he will be transferred to the Marj 'Uyun hospital for further treatment.

Our correspondents Yo'av Aviv and Nati Zilberman report that at the moment the two deportees are in an IRC vehicle between al- Naqurah and Rosh Haniqra. An IDF unit held them up there, and a discussion is currently taking place on their continued trip.

Return of 9 Deportees Delayed

NC1001101193 Paris AFP in English 0756 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Jan 10 (AFP)—The return of nine Palestinians deported by Israel in error will not take place before Monday at the earliest, a Red Cross spokesman said Sunday.

"We do not simply want to bring them back, we would like to take advantage of the occasion to take aid to the 400 others at the same time," a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross told AFP.

The ICRC would present a report to the Israeli authorities on conditions at the freezing no man's land camp in south Lebanon where 415 suspected fundamentalists were dumped on December 17.

"We will negotiate with the Israelis from Sunday," the spokesman said following a visit to the camp on Saturday by a Red Cross doctor and a delegate. "The nine will not come back before Monday at the soonest." If they return 404 men will remain in exile, he added.

"The bad weather is causing serious problems because water gets into the tents and the mattresses are wet."

There is no medical emergency but eight of the deportees need hospital treatment, he said. [passage omitted]

ICRC on Lebanon's Airlift Ban

TA1001124093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Government is refusing to allow the UN and the Palestinians Israel mistakenly deported from their tent camp in southern Lebanon. In Tel Aviv, ICRC officials ruled out an operation today, but said they hope to get the nine out this week. Dani Gur-Arye has the story:

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] When ICRC officials received Israel's permission yesterday to fly the other nine mistaken deportees to al-Naqura, they felt the main stumbling bloc had been overcome. This morning they woke up to find a host of new obstacles in their path. The most formidable is Lebanon's refusal to allow the ICRC to make another flight in southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese position is a setback, but it is not the only thing holding down the ICRC. The deputy head of the ICRC in Israel, Pierre Reiter, said the organization still has to get authorization from the UN, and must coordinate with Israel. That coordination may imply more then just scheduling. Red Cross officials say the group does not want to go back to the tent camp empty-handed. Following yesterday's assessment of the deportees' needs, the ICRC would like permission from Israel to take back supplies. Certain needs have been identified, and it would be difficult to justify going back without filling those needs, an official said. [passage omitted]

Reto Meister, head of the ICRC in Israel and the territories, says that if the organization goes into Lebanon to take out the nine, as we just heard, it should be allowed to deliver supplies to the deportees at the same time.

[Meister] Well, I think what is seen in this statement as a positive element, although he does not pronounce it, is that these people can go out from where they presently are. And this is exactly what the prime minister of Israel said also that they can principally come back to the position and the situation which they were before December 17. So, I think that is the common denominator and I think that is already very important, and from there on it is a question of modality and logistics.

[Gur-Arye] But that common denominator has existed for several weeks. Both sides have said that the nine, or the 10 until yesterday, could come out. The obstacles that each side has put up have created a situation where they just cannot physically be taken out of there.

[Meister] You are right.

[Gur-Arye] Will that change? What will the ICRC do?

[Meister] I am confident that this will change, yes.

[Gur-Arye] Do you think Lebanon will allow the ICRC to fly in there in the next day or two?

[Meister] I haven't had contact with my friend from Beirut, the ICRC delegate in Lebanon, but we will see what kind of proposals we will come up with that could permit us—either our delegation in Lebanon or us here from Israel and the occupied territories—to work in favor of the 417.

[Gur-Arye] When you go back, do you expect Israel to allow you to take some supplies?

[Meister] As I said, we are in a state of evaluating the survey, and it is likely that we will make proposals to Israel and Lebanon which will also permit us to cover some basic material and physical needs of the deportees. [end recording]

IRC Said Unwilling To Move Deportees

TA1001165093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The government has decided to cancel the 60-day limit on when the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees can appeal their deportation. The government was not presented, however, with a solution to the problem of how the nine who were mistakenly deported will be returned to Israel, especially in view of the refusal by the International Red Cross [IRC] to fly them. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports on the cabinet session:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Prior to today's lengthy economic discussion, the ministers discussed the international efforts and pressure regarding the deportees affair. Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, briefed the ministers on the developments which enabled the two IRC officials to visit the deportees' camp yesterday. Rabin said that initially the IRC had asked to send a large medical team, but eventually a compromise was reached on a two-person delegation, one of them a physician. Rabin also briefed the ministers on the decision to hospitalize the sick deportee in the Marj 'Uyun hospital.

At the same time a rather surprising fact emerged during today's briefings: While Israel took it for granted that the IRC would transfer the nine deportees from the encampment to Israel, it has transpired that the IRC is unwilling to fulfill this role. The IRC is demanding that infrastructure work be carried out in the deportees' camp as a condition for conveying the nine deportees to Israel.

This is how things stand with the nine deportees. Regarding the other deportees, the government today decided to cancel the time limitation imposed on their ability to appeal the deportation. According to the original order, the deportees can submit their appeals for up to 60 days after the deportation, whereas henceforth they will be permitted to appeal for two years.

Do the latest Israeli goodwill gestures mean that Israel is showing signs of caving in? This is the question we asked Minister 'Uzi Bar'am, who supported the decision to send aid to the deportees, and Minister Hayim Ramon, who abstained:

[Bar'am] At this stage we are dealing with humanitarian aid to sick people. I am convinced, however, that the position I have expressed during the cabinet session has been vindicated. I do not want to reopen the debate, but I think that the prime minister realizes this now. It is true that he has taken only a minor step—exactly as he was requested to do—but I think this first step was correct both from the humanitarian and political points of view. [Gutman] Are we to expect any more goodwill gestures?

[Bar'am] I do not know; we are not contractors for goodwill gestures. I think, however, that this event could be repeated. I have a feeling that this is not the last time.

[Gutman] Minister Hayim Ramon, is the government gradually backing away from its decision not to allow any aid to be transferred to the deportees?

[Ramon] Certainly not. The government, via the State Attorney's Office, announced during the High Court of Justice hearing on the appeals that whenever the Israeli Government learns that one of the deportees is in imminent health danger, the government will offer him humanitarian help, and this is exactly what we did. This means, therefore, that there is no deviation here from our basic policy of granting the deportees humanitarian aid when necessary.

[Gutman] During the cabinet session, Minister Amnon Rubinstein of Meretz called on Prime Minister Rabin to permit deportees deported over the last 20 years to appeal their deportation. Rubinstein argued this would improve the public atmosphere. Minister Hayim Ramon joined Rubinstein, but Prime Minister Rabin said that legal elements advised him not to support this move prior to the High Court of Justice's hearing on the deportees appeal scheduled for 17 January. Concluding this issue, the prime minister promised to study the proposal and convey his decision in the next few days.

Minister Shim'on Shetrit suggested that all the deportees in south Lebanon will be promised that after their return they will never be deported again, but his proposal was not accepted. [end recording]

One Deportee Returns

TA0901205993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondent notes that the Foreign Ministry is highly pleased with the moves taken with regard to the deportees, moves which are compatible with the ministry's recommendations and help improve the atmosphere during the visit by the UN secretary general's envoy.

Reto Meister, the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] representative in Israel, said this evening that the mission carried out by his people in the deportees' encampment in Lebanon has achieved its goals in the best possible manner. In a talk with our correspondent Shlomo Arad, the ICRC representative in Israel said his people did what they were tasked with, and the decision to bring the two deportees was made while they were on their mission, in coordination with the Israeli authorities.

Our reporter in the north, Moti 'Eden, heard from UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] spokesman Timur Goksel about the circumstances that delayed the ICRC representatives' return from south Lebanon to Israel.

[Begin recording, in English] [Goksel] The Red Cross wanted to bring both of the Palestinians across the border tonight.

['Eden] You mean the young one.

[Goksel] The both of them; the Red Cross wanted to bring both of them, so they took them into their cars, they left our compound, and outside of the compound they met with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers. What we understand from the Red Cross now is that the IDF officers have told them that they have authorization to take one of them across tonight.

['Eden] The boy or the....

[Goksel] The boy, the boy, and the other one can be discussed tomorrow. So there seems to be the discussion going on now, but in the meanwhile, the Red Cross ask us if necessary whether we can provide bedding for the Palestinian, the ill one....

['Eden, interrupting] The old man.

[Goksel] He is not old. He is 31 years old, but he is relatively older—and whether we can keep him in al-Naqurah for humanitary reasons. We agreed, if they keep a doctor with the man. [end recording]

Chinmaya Gharekhan, the UN secretary's envoy, will meet the prime minister in Jerusalem tomorrow. The envoy has already met the foreign minister and Foreign Ministry experts, as well as the ICRC representative in Israel. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that talks with Gharekhan indicate that he wants to prevent a confrontation between Israel and the United Nations. He may try to work out a compromise in view of Israel's refusal to return all the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees. Among other things, under consideration is the possibility of technically easing the appeal process offered the deportees.

This evening Chinmaya Gharekhan met with Palestinian representatives in East Jerusalem. Our reporter in the territories Amir Hay reports.

[Begin recording] [Hay] The meeting between 12 Palestinian representatives and envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan lasted a short while this evening. Al-Husayni and his colleagues expressed to Gharekhan their disappointment with the UN inability to enforce the implementation of Resolution 799 by Israel, calling for the return of all deportees. Chinmaya Gharekhan told his interlocutors that he believes in a diplomatic solution rather than in imposing sanctions on Israel.

[Gharekhan, in English] I am glad certainly that ICRC was able to go there, to visit the deportees in their location, and I am also glad that this young boy has been able to come back. Certainly, it is a very small step, but I think that we can only be happy that some people have come back. It certainly is not enough. It certainly is not enough, and more remains to be done.

[Hay] The meeting took place against the background of a statement by two of the members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib and Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, about their withdrawal from the talks until all deportees are returned to their homes in the territories. The following is al-Husayni's comment on this matter this evening.

[Al-Husayni, in English] We are not going to allow ourselves or anyone to kill the peace process, but we'll not allow in the same time this peace process to be used to kill us. [end recording]

[In a follow-up report on the ICRC mission broadcast later in the same newscast, the ICRC's Georges Comninos, who visited the deportees today, is quoted as saying that due to the very difficult weather conditions, "the situation is quite difficult," in the camp. Speaking in English, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the deportees' spokesman, explains Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's decision by saying: "Israel wants by that, by the new decision, to shift the sight of the world about the central problem, which is about our very miserable case here."]

UN Envoy Continues Visit on Deportee Issue

Holds News Conference

TA1001181693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Joint news conference by UN envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin after their two-hour meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live, in English; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Gharekhan] ...and the United Nations is deeply concerned about the humanitarian conditions of the deportees, but my mission here is defined by Security Council Resolution 799 and the secretary general's letter to the president of the Security Council of 4 January. So it is against that background that the secretary general decided to send me, and it is within that framework that I had discussions with the prime minister.

[Rabin] I had a long and detailed discussion with the special emissary of the secretary general of the United Nations, Ambassador Gharekhan. I explained the positions of the Government of Israel, what brought about the decision that we took, and mentioned that we stand by the government decision; but at the same time I explained that this temporary removal is not a deportation. All of them will be brought back in accordance to the time decided that they will be outside the territories. Of course, they have got the right to appeal to the special committees that can take whatever decision on an individual basis. Of course, we know what is the meaning of Resolution 799 of the Security Council, and no doubt the special envoy explained it to me, as I explained the reasons for our decision.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, did you make any progress toward achieving your goal of implementing the resolution?

[Gharekhan] As I said, I have had a very detailed discussion with the prime minister, and I shall be reporting to the secretary general on my discussions with him.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Shlomo Raz, in Hebrew] Mr. Prime Minister, in view of the situation described by the envoy and you, does the crisis remain, or does Israel plan additional steps?

[Rabin, in Hebrew] As I have said, the ambassador presented the UN position—he came here within the framework of the Security Council resolutions—and I, of course, remained within the framework the Israeli Government's decisions.

[Raz, in Hebrew] In other words, the situation remains the same?

[Rabin, in Hebrew] At this moment, the situation remains as it was.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, would you say that your mission is a failure, that you did not achieve your goals here?

[Gharekhan] I think it not proper for me to characterize the result of my mission at this state. I would like to report to the secretary general first.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are you going on to Lebanon, sir?

[Gharekhan] No, I am not going to Lebanon.

[Same unidentified correspondent] Why?

[Gharekhan] As I explained, this is not a humanitarian mission. My mission is in terms of 799, which does not bring Lebanon into the picture at all.

[Raz provides a summarized Hebrew translation of Rabin's and Gharekhan's remarks in English]

[Rabin] As you know, the norms of behavior on the humanitarian aspect—which was not the issue that I discussed with the special emissary of the secretary general—on the humanitarian issue, our norms are different than the Lebanese one, and this is the source of some of the problem that we face.

[Unidentified CNN correspondent] Did any new ideas come out? In the past, you mentioned the possibility of a third country. Did you discuss any ways to resolve the situation as it is now?

[Rabin] As it was said, the mandate of the special emissary is within the framework of the Security Council resolution and the letter of the secretary general to the Security Council. They are in accordance to the way that Israel sees it. With goodwill there could be solutions to the problems, without of course changing the position of the Government of Israel. To what extent it will be done I can't say, but it was not an issue that the special emissary could discuss with me, because he has got his own mandate which he kept in mind in all our talks for the two hours.

To Meet With Beilin

TA1101061693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] UN envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan will meet with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin today. At the same time, he will hold contacts on the deportee issue with the International Red Cross [IRC] representatives in Israel. Yesterday's meeting between Gharekhan and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin revealed differences between Israel and the UN envoy. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports.

Since yesterday evening, officials in Jerusalem have been searching for signs indicating that the contacts between Israel and the United Nations have not reached a dead end. Political sources claim that both sides are exerting efforts to this end and maintain that there is still some room for maneuver, through the IRC, for example. Although after his meeting with the prime minister yesterday, UN envoy Gharekhan clarified that he did not come on a humanitarian mission, something which is not within his mandate, and explained that he came to return the deportees to Israel, as stipulated in the Security Council's resolution, it now transpires that he is continuing to meet with IRC representatives. He is also keeping another channel of dialogue open with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. Chinmaya Gharekhan is UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's representative to the multilateral peace talks, and he will discuss issues relating to the multilateral talks with Mr. Beilin today.

Sources in Jerusalem expressed the belief that Mr. Gharekhan now has a better understanding of Israel's problems. Yesterday he held a private meeting with Prime Minister Rabin and, after confirming at a news conference that their talks had reached a deadlock, the envoy received an additional briefing from a senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer.

Mr. Gharekhan will apparently leave for Paris tomorrow, where he will present his report to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. Incidentally, Foreign Minister Peres, who is leaving for Paris this week to sign the chemical weapons nonproliferation treaty, may also meet with the secretary general and perhaps discuss the deportee issue.

Meets Palestinians on Deportees

TA0901183493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] UN special envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan met this evening with Palestinian representatives from the territories. The meeting took place in East Jerusalem. The Palestinian delegation was headed by Faysal al-Husayni. The Palestinians told the UN envoy that Israel must abide by the UN decision calling for the return of all 415 deportees. After the meeting representatives of the left-wing Palestinian organizations said they will not take part in the peace talks with Israel unless UN Resolution 799 is implemented in full.

Peres Comments on Peace Process, Deportees

TA0901114593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Gad Becker in Jerusalem on 8 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Becker] I am talking with you before the ultimatum to Iraq expires. Do Israelis have any reason to be worried by what is happening in Iraq?

[Peres] It is always good to be concerned, but I am not sure there is a reason for it. I believe the Iraqis will be cautious. There is an Arab proverb that says: When you receive blows, there is a difference between the person counting them and the one receiving them. The Iraqis received the blows, so I believe they will be very cautious and will want to settle accounts with Bush without Bush settling accounts with them.

[Becker] I do not want to insist, but is there still a possibility that in a certain situation they will launch Scuds at Israel?

[Peres] Yes, if that happens we will have to decide how to defend ourselves, but I do not think it is an immediate or real threat.

[Becker] Are you or any of your people in the Foreign Ministry conducting contacts with Syrian elements behind the prime minister's back, or perhaps in front of him?

[Peres] I wish I could answer in the affirmative, but I have no basis for doing so. The only negotiations with Syria are being conducted by our delegation in Washington, and all the newspaper stories are not only newspaper stories but also newspaper creations. They have no foundation, and anyone who has anything to do with the matter will deny them. There has never been such a wide-ranging consensus in denying anything as in this instance.

[Becker] But there are reports emanating from Egypt, and Golan Heights settlers have made claims—and have even presented alleged facts—about a document being worked out.

[Peres] The difference between Egypt and the Golan settlers on that issue is that Egypt would like it to happen, and the Golan settlers fear it will take place, so both are, in my view, dealing with speculations that have no basis in fact.

[Becker] What did you then mean on 7 January when you said that when the two delegations, the Israeli and Syrian, reconvene they will be closer in their positions than after the previous meeting?

[Peres] The previous meeting was one between shy people. Israel was loathe to say withdrawal, and Syria was loathe to say peace. Both sides have overcome their shyness but have not yet moved from that stage into the world of reality. This time we will start with each side having said in general terms what the other wants to hear. The Syrians are very specific on withdrawal from the Golan Heights and very evasive on peace. We are trying to bring them down from the high peaks of generalized declarations on peace to more detailed commitments, and they would like to receive maps from us. The Israeli map will in the long run be an outcome of the character of the peace on the one hand and the security lineup on the other.

[Becker] But you said that the price is a given.

[Peres] That is correct.

[Becker] What is the price?

[Peres] I do not think I should go into too much detail at this moment. When I said that the price is a given, I intended mainly to draw attention to where, in my view, we can get better results, and that is on peace.

[Becker] There are those who understood the phrase—the price is a given—to mean full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

[Peres] Each person has different understandings. I do not think I should be more detailed than that at a time when negotiations are being conducted. The message in which I believe is simply that to settle the conflict of the past is not enough and does not guarantee that the peace will hold. What we need is in a changed world to build a different Middle East. I would put the emphasis on the essence of the peace, the character of the peace, the significance of the peace, rather than the price.

You know what? I will even take a risk and say the following: The Golan Heights is 1,000 km. Let us say that those who want a territorial compromise say: Let us give 500 km to the Syrians and keep 500 km for ourselves. I am not so sure that is the best guarantee for a permanent peace. It is not the number of kilometers that we keep or give up on the Golan Heights that will decide the fate of the peace, but agreements on water, open borders, missiles, and nonconventional weapons.

We are conducting negotiations as though we were only facing the problems of the past, and failing to look at the new reality. The peace must deal with the new reality. It cannot make do only with a solution of conflicts that survive only in our memory.

[Becker] Do the public and I hear between the lines, or almost specifically, from you a readiness to give up all the Golan Heights?

[Peres] If you really want to hear from me, then I say: Do not yield on the essence of the peace. In my view, the essence of the peace comes prior to any territorial consideration. That is the message I want to convey.

[Becker] Now to the deportees. Does the permission given to the International Red Cross [IRC] to visit them signify the start of a caving-in process by the Israeli Government on this affair?

[Peres] No need to cave in. I believe we need to make decisions that deal with the given situation. You could say the IRC caved in. The IRC first said there is a problem of food and medicine. The minute it wrote us that there are now no problems of medicines or food, it caved in. It then asked for permission for two instead of six to leave for the encampment to study the situation. I believe that we gave a reasonable response. I do not deny that my view was different from that of the majority from the start. I am, however, a member of the government; I respect its decisions, I act according to them, and I am glad that yesterday we gave a proper Israeli response to a very detailed, and if you wish also limited, IRC request.

[Becker] As foreign minister and as someone who opposed these expulsions—which you have just confirmed—what damage will they do to the State of Israel?

[Peres] I believe that I must be fair. When I give an answer that represents my position, I do not intend to ignore the other view. There is no doubt that the expulsion caused us harm, but I must admit that nonexpulsion would also have caused a great deal of harm. It is difficult for me, looking back, to decide which of the two would have been greater.

[Becker] You have still not decided?

[Peres] I also do not have to decide. I am not a historian; I am not writing history.

[Becker] What about Security Council resolutions?

[Peres] I am looking to the future. I think about what we must do in the future, not what we should say about the past. You can talk about the past if you either have a journalist's temperament or a historian's ambition. I have neither. I look to the future and ask what should be done from today to tomorrow. I was not here, as you know, when the government decision was made, and I also do not want to be wise after the fact. In reference to the future, we must make sure first of all that the expulsions do not clash with the chance of renewing the peace talks. In my view, that is the supreme consideration.

[Becker] Is there such a fear?

[Peres] There is such a danger. For instance, if the Security Council passes extremist resolutions, the Arabs will not allow themselves to be less extremist than the United Nations. If the European states take extremist positions, again, the Arabs will have to radicalize their positions. Therefore, we must look not only at the Arab side which comes to the peace negotiations, but also make sure that non-Arabs do not radicalize the Arab positions. I told the UN envoy today: Let us say that you remain firm in your positions and force us to yield, you will endanger the peace process. By wanting to resolve the deportee issue, you can bring the peace process to a halt. Pay attention to what is more important, to what is the really important issue.

[Becker] What do you therefore demand or suggest the prime minister or the Israeli Government do now to prevent the danger to which you are pointing?

[Peres] The prime minister's decision on the IRC is very acceptable to me. In reference to the United Nations, I told the UN envoy that I do not suggest that they demand that Israel back down from its decisions because that would also cause a radicalization. At the same time, we do not want to reach an all-out clash with the United Nations. I believe there are several ideas that can unite those two contradictions into a single policy.

[Becker] Sir, can someone who is guilty of a tax offense, in this case Professor Itamar Rabinovich, serve as Israel's ambassador in Washington?

[Peres] The question is whether he is a tax offender.

[Becker] He paid a penalty fee to the tax authorities.

[Peres] If he paid a penalty fee and the law permits it, then it is not an offense. [passage omitted]

Iraq To Provide Free, Preferentially Priced Oil

JN0801075593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Jan 93 pp 1, 18

[Report by Yahya al-Juju]

[Text] Amman—Sources at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources have said an agreement has been signed in Baghdad between the Jordanian and Iraqi Governments. According to the agreement, Jordan will be supplied with approximately 55,000 barrels of Iraqi crude oil a day.

The agreement, signed in late December by 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, minister of energy and mineral resources, and Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah al-Hiti, allows Jordan to import oil from Iraq at the preferential price of $16 a barrel, including transportation cost. Jordan will also receive additional quantities of oil for free in the form of aid.

Certain favorable conditions were introduced to last year's agreement. Finance Minister Basil Jardanah told the House of Representatives on Wednesday that free oil provides the major part of the expected aid in the 1993 budget. He pointed out that foreign aid expected for this year is estimated at 150 million dinars, including 91.6 million dinars—the value of the oil which Jordan will be getting for free.

Western Ultimatum to Iraq Criticized

JN0801073893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0510 GMT 8 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The Jordanian dailies AL-RA'Y, AL-DUSTUR, and SAWT AL-SHA'B discuss one subject in their editorials today: the Western ultimatum to Iraq to withdraw its missiles from the area below the 32d parallel before the end of the day.

AL-DUSTUR says: Today, when Iraq tries to assert its complete sovereignty over this Iraqi area, the West brandishes its long swords, sending public ultimatums and making threats in a manner that indicates, once again, a premeditated intention to strike at the fraternal Iraqi people, destroy what was rebuilt in the past two years of blockade, and impose further Western hegemony over all resources in the region and the future of its people. In the face of all this, we hope fraternal Iraq will be able to deny the West this devilish opportunity and respond to all these threats with all the necessary courage, wisdom, perseverance, and patience, traits which we think are abundantly available in our Iraqi brothers.

In an editorial entitled "Why Are They Warning Iraq And Threatening To Use Force?," SAWT AL-SHA'B says: This insistence by the United States, Britain, and France to usurp the Iraqis' right to move freely over their own soil and protect their sovereignty and people's unity can only be viewed as a flagrant intervention in the affairs of that independent Arab country. SAWT AL-SHA'B adds: If the United States, Britain, France, and Russia had intervened to stop the Serbs' aggression against the peoples of Bosnia-Hercegovina and implement the UN Security Council resolutions to stop that aggression, we would have said that this alliance is truly concerned about world peace and security. If the same alliance intervened to implement Security Council Resolution 799, which demands the return of 415 Palestinian deportees to their country and makes Israel comply, even by force, with the resolutions of international legitimacy, we would have said that this alliance is intervening to achieve justice, fight wrong, and draw a line that the evil ones cannot go beyond. SAWT AL-SHA'B also says: Even if the same alliance moved to impose sanctions—such as a blockade—on Israel and the Serbs, we would not be able to find an excuse for this alliance as it tries to tighten the blockade imposed on Iraq. Iraq has conformed to all UN Security Council resolutions, a series of which were passed within a few weeks, and cooperated with the international agencies to implement them. SAWT AL-SHA'B concludes by saying: There is no reason to justify this U.S.-British-French campaign against Iraq. There is also no reason to justify tightening the unjust blockade imposed on it. There is no reason to justify the U.S. provocations and the new threats made by this coalition against that glorious Arab country.

AL-RA'Y says: The threat to deal a military strike to Iraq constitutes a provocation and a challenge against the Arab individual and a disdain of the Arab nation's right to defend itself. What harm can be done to Washington, Paris, London, and Moscow when Iraq deploys defensive missiles within its boundaries, knowing that at the same time Israel is keeping an arsenal of destructive offensive weapons and none of these four capitals is making a protest whatsoever? The double standards, provocations, and challenge illustrated by the unjust ultimatum to Iraq are a result of Arab impotence. Arabs must view the matter seriously and act swiftly to free themselves of impotence by restoring solidarity among themselves, quickly and without any hesitation.

U.S. Said To 'Exacerbate' Crisis With Iraq

JN0901135893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Jan 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Why Does Western Alliance Seek Military Confrontation With Iraq?"]

[Text] By escalating the crisis of Iraqi missiles near the so-called no-fly zone imposed on Iraqi aircraft, it seems that the U.S. Administration deliberately and unjustifiably wants to exacerbate the situation to a point of explosion and confrontation between the U.S.-led Western alliance and Iraq.

It is well known that Iraq complied with all UN resolutions, cooperated with strategic weapons inspection committees and teams, and spared no effort to close the chapter of the Gulf war and its consequences and to open a new chapter in its Arab and international relations. It is clear, however, that the U.S. Administration does not want Iraq to catch its breath, to rebuild its national economy, and to compensate its people for their lost opportunities to achieve development, prosperity, and progress. Hence, the U.S. Administration continues to fabricate crises with Iraq, to besiege it, to weaken it, and to seek to topple its national government.

The U.S., British, and French role in fomenting secterian sedition in southern Iraq and in spurring ethnic sedition and establishing a Kurdish government in the northern part is something well known to all. Washington and its allies in Britain and France exerted fervent efforts to partition and divide Iraq. They have always pillaged Iraq's territories and airspace in a premeditated manner by conducting provocative acts like the establishment of a no-fly zone imposed on Iraqi aircraft and preventing Iraqi radar from monitoring foreign aircraft violating its airspace.

In other words, the U.S. Administration deliberately exacerbated the situation toward a military confrontation, but Iraq, which repeatedly announced that it does not want a confrontation, has no choice but to defend itself, its territories, its sovereignty, and the unity of its people.

It is well known that the no-fly zone imposed on Iraqi aircraft is not a UN Security Council decision. It is an issue fabricated by America and its allies to tighten the grip on the national government in Baghdad and to encourage the desperate secterian rebellion in the south and provide it with military and other means of support and aid.

Hence, Iraq did not accept the continuation of this conspiracy and did not accept the pillage of its airspace and territories. Iraq did not and will not accept its partitioning into secterian and ethnic petty states just as the Western alliance wants, taking advantage of the UN Security Council, which has turned into a tool to serve America and its allies.

Very briefly, there is no real justification for exacerbating the security situation in Iraq and in the region toward a military confrontation.

The Arab nation will not forgive the hateful Western alliance for launching a new aggression on this proud Arab country.

Editorial Calls Iraqi Missile Crisis 'Fabricated'

JN0901110393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Jan 93 p 1

[Editorial: "What Lies Behind Iraqi Missile Issue?"]

[Text] It seems that the Iraqi missile issue, which was fabricated by the United States with the participation of its allies, is becoming more serious every hour. This gives the impression that Washington and those who are involved in it have a ready-made plan for a military aggression against Iraq and that President Bush intends to crown his final days of authority with this aggression.

Naturally, this aggressive behavior poses immense threats represented by instilling despair in the region and paving the way for serious repercussions which will be difficult to overcome.

There is a strong impression that Washington desires to reduce world concern over the recent Israeli crime of deporting hundreds of Palestinians and to shift it to the fabricated Iraqi missiles issue. Moreover, it is not ruled out that this desire is among other factors taken into consideration by Washington, including the terrorization of Arabs through aggression against Iraq, so that the Arabs would go to the next round of negotiations, scheduled to begin on 20 February, in a state that does not allow them to stand against Israeli intransigence during the negotiations.

The state of Arab indifference toward provocations by the United States and its allies against Iraq and their readiness to launch aggressive action against it is deeply regrettable. Indeed, it is not sensible for Arabs to remain silent over threats against Iraq, especially since these threats will affect all Arabs and set a precedence that may be used by the aggressors to interfere in the defense affairs of any Arab state in the future.

It is time for Arabs to wake up from the sleep which has afflicted them and is threatening their present and future. There is no reason at all for the continuation of the state the Arabs are in. Moreover, nothing prevents them from heading toward a new Arab era to regain their rights and dignity and to prevent the aggressors from attacking any of their countries.

Ambassador-Designate to U.S. Discusses Priorities

JN0901132193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Jan 93 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the Jordanian ambassador-designate to the United States who leaves for Washington Sunday, says that one of his priorities is to establish firm contacts with the new administration, Congress and various American academic and political institutions with a view to explaining Jordan's case and the Kingdom's position vis-a-vis various international issues.

Dr. al-Tarawinah, who faces the additional, and perhaps the most difficult task of getting to grips with an incoming Democratic administration after 12 years of dealing with Republican rule, said he would soon get into establishing channels of communications and understanding with officials of the Clinton administration as well as new members of Congress.

Also included in the ambassador-designate's priorities are plans to set up "contacts and communications with Jordanians living all over the United States."

Dr. al-Tarawinah, a former minister and a senior member of Jordan's delegation to Arab-Israeli peace talks, was sworn in as ambassador before His Majesty King Husayn on Thursday.

"There is a host of diversified issues that need to be addressed" in Washington, Dr. al-Tarawinah, 43, told the JORDAN TIMES in an interview Friday.

Jordanian sources in Washington have reported "hectic activities and preparations on the diplomatic level" ahead of the assumption of office by the 103rd American Congress last week and the White House transition on Jan. 20.

"It is one big job," said one source. "We have more than 110 new members of Congress in addition to an almost complete revamping of senior officials in the various departments."

"Establishing strong contacts with them is a mammoth task, let alone maintaining them," added the source.

However, Dr. al-Tarawinah said, he did not expect any dramatic shifts; "We deal with institutions rather than individuals and, as such, I don't expect any shifts, whether it is Republican administration or Democrat."

Contacts with American universities, think-tanks, political organisations and academic centres also rank high among his priorities, he said, "because I believe that some of these organisations still do not understand clearly Jordan's position in terms of its values, its principles."

The democratisation process now under way in Jordan, the Kingdom's views on human rights, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press are some of the key areas which need to be explained and clarified to these organisations "so that misconceptions could be removed," he said.

In addition, "there are a lot of Jordanians living in various parts of the United States and I intend to establish channels of contacts and communications with them as much as possible," he said.

Dr. al-Tarawinah's appointment as ambassador should have no bearing on his status as a member of the Jordanian delegation to peace talks with Israel.

"I am told that there is not going to be any change for the moment," he said.

The new ambassador, who is also head of Jordan's steering committee to the multilateral phase of the peace talks, said he was considering how to perform the multifaceted role, particularly that some of the multilateral talks are held outside the United States.

Dr. al-Tarawinah, who served as minister of state at the Prime Ministry as well as minister of supply in the government of then Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i in 1988 and 1989, replaces Husayn Hamami, who has been appointed secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry.

After leaving the government with the resignation of the al-Rifa'i cabinet in May 1989, Dr. al-Tarawinah worked in the private sector before being recalled to public office as member of the Kingdom's delegation to peace talks with Israel in 1991.

Hailing from a prominent family from al-Karak in the south of Jordan, Dr. al-Tarawinah graduated from the University of Jordan in 1971 and then secured masters and doctorate degrees in economics from the University of Southern California.

He served as assistant chief of royal protocol between 1971 and 1980 before moving to the Prime Ministry as economic adviser until 1988. He was appointed minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs in January 1988 and in December that year as minister of supply—both in al-Rifa'i cabinet.

Government Officials Discuss Deportation Issues

Foreign Minister on Deportees

NC0901084293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, in Beirut, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Minister: Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Buwayz] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] We would like to begin this dialogue with the Palestinian deportee problem, which is now a chief Arab concern because of its strong impact on the peace process. The Arab League Council will meet in Cairo on Monday [11 January]. We have learned that you will present a Lebanese initiative to the Arab foreign ministers. Could you tell us something about it?

[Buwayz] The extraordinary Arab foreign ministers meeting is a Lebanese demand, not only a Palestinian one. I will lead Lebanon's delegation to the meeting. Lebanon will primarily ask for the convening of an Arab summit to discuss the deportees issue. This is a collective Arab responsibility, not only a Palestinian or Lebanese one. Lebanon will also ask the Arab countries to collectively call on the Security Council to introduce a mechanism and a time frame for the return of the deportees. There is a very clear Security Council resolution that awaits implementation. Many days have passed since the resolution was issued, and we wonder why it has not been implemented. We, therefore, may propose that the Arab foreign ministers present a common request to the Security Council to lay down a mechanism for implementation.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can we say, then, that the Arab foreign ministers will come out with a unified position to the United Nations?

[Buwayz] Yes, of course. The meeting revolves around coordination over this subject with a view toward adopting a unified position.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You said you will request an Arab summit. Do you believe that such a meeting is really important and that the foreign ministers meeting is not enough?

[Buwayz] We believe that developments in the region in general justify an Arab summit. The kings and presidents need to consult with each other on the upcoming stage. Furthermore, we believe that the extraordinary situation arising from the expulsion of the Palestinians, and the potential repercussions of this act, require such consultations. We, therefore, believe that an Arab summit is more than justified in these circumstances—both for current Lebanese reasons linked to the deportees and for general regional reasons linked to the peace talks.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] If Israel does not revoke its deportation decision, what will happen to the peace process?

[Buwayz] The peace process will definitely be affected. It may be affected in form—the resumption or discontinuation of the talks—or in content—that is, a certain atmosphere will dominate the talks. The Israeli act reduces the hopes in and the credibility of the talks. It is difficult to determine exactly what the impact of the Israeli practice on the peace process will be. However, I stress that it will have one, either in form or content.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Some say Lebanon abandoned the Palestinian deportees. Could you explain Lebanon's position on this?

[Buwayz] Lebanon's position proceeds, above all, from its eagerness to defend the Palestinian people's cause. It would have been easy for us to receive the Palestinian deportees, but this would have really hurt the Palestinian cause. The main reason behind Lebanon's decision not to receive the deportees is our concern on the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's right to return to their land—a right entrenched by the United Nations. In addition, Lebanon was eager to abide by the fourth Geneva Convention, which unambiguously states that occupying powers are responsible for political situations arising from occupation and for the safety of the people under occupation. Lebanon's position, therefore, is based on Arab commitments, obligations toward the Palestine question, and respect for international conventions.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You said Lebanon's acceptance of the Palestinian deportees would have some negative impacts as well. Could we know them from the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Arab point of view?

[Buwayz] To accept the principle of deportation would be tantamount to entrenching this principles and encouraging Israel to do it again in the future. Receiving 400 Palestinians today means opening the doors to 4,000 in the near future, perhaps.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Before we end this dialogue, we would like to ask you whether you will participate in the peace talks if the problem of the deportees is not solved before 10 February, the date set for the resumption of the talks.

[Buwayz] We believe this will be a topic of discussion during the 11 January Cairo meeting. Anyway, we believe that any position on this issue must be taken collectively. If taken unilaterally, a position will lose its weight and importance.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states emphasized that point in their recent meeting in Cairo.

[Buwayz] Yes, of course.

Buwayz Rejects Compromise

NC0901171493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1528 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Beirut, 9 Jan (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that Lebanon rejects any compromise proposals for solving the problem of the deportees, such as reducing the period of their deportation in return for keeping them in Lebanon or distributing them to the Arab states. He said that the only acceptable solution is the immediate return of the deportees to Palestine and that anything else is a maneuver designed to anoint the right of deportation, which is unprecedented in even the most dictatorial states.

In an exclusive statement to the MENA correspondent in Beirut, Buwayz said that the United States has not conveyed any such proposals to Lebanon, adding that the Lebanese Government has also rejected the temporary relocation of the deportees to the area under the control of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL].

On the possibility of the failure of the current mission of the UN secretary general's envoy in Israel following Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' refusal to reverse the deportation decision, Buwayz said that before we declare the UN envoy's mission in Israel a failure, we must give the UN Security Council a chance to implement Resolution 799, particularly since several council members support the implementation of the resolution. [passage omitted]

Buwayz said that Lebanon is neither directly nor indirectly involved in the issue of the Palestinian intifadah and that it is illogical that Lebanon should shoulder the burden of the deportation decision, which poses a threat to peace in Lebanon and the region. He added that we still believe that the deportees are Israel's responsibility because they are present in an area outside the control of the Lebanese state.

Asked whether the Lebanese Government will approve a request from the Red Cross representatives in Lebanon to visit the deportees through Lebanese territory, Buwayz said that if the purpose of the visit is merely to examine the plight of the deportees or to seek information on their conditions, Lebanon might not object to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] making such a visit. He added that the ICRC representative has not yet submitted any request on this subject and that if he submits such a request, our response may be positive.

Buwayz Views Cairo Meeting

NC1001150293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Beirut, 10 Jan (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has affirmed the importance of diplomatic efforts by President Husni Mubarak to resolve the Palestinian deportees crisis and promote the peace process in the region. He said Egypt has a major role in the peace process and the achievement of security and stability in view of its importance in the Arab and international arenas. He noted complete coordination and understanding between Egypt and Lebanon on the peace process and the deportees issue.

In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent in Beirut, Buwayz pointed out that the periodic meetings held between officials of the two countries, both on the bilateral and Arab levels, showed positions were united and views were identical on regional and international issues and the future of the joint Arab action.

Buwayz explained that the emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo on Monday to discuss the Palestinian deportees will consider forming a delegation of some Arab foreign ministers to attend a UN Security Council meeting in New York to present the collective Arab position, which calls for practical measures and a deadline for implementing Resolution 799, including sanctions against Israel if it refuses to implement the resolution.

Buwayz said the Cairo meeting's purpose was to create a broad political and popular mobilization in the Arab and international arenas to face the new Israeli challenge. Israel will not be content with deporting over 400 Palestinians to Lebanon. It could deport hundreds or thousands of Palestinians to Lebanon and perhaps to other Arab states.

He said it is important that the Arab foreign ministers issue a collective decision representing their political weight, requesting a UN Security Council meeting to force Israel to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy instead of the request for such a meeting coming from Lebanon and the PLO alone.

Asked about doubts over the possibility of convening an Arab summit conference, the Lebanese foreign minister said: "Although I think such a summit is not impossible and consider it the only opportunity for bringing the Arab leaders together and uniting the Arab ranks against a strategic danger facing our national and Arab security, the convening of a limited summit of leaders of Arab states directly concerned with this issue could be discussed. Consultations on the arrangements for convening such a summit should take place during the Cairo meeting."

Asked about reports that Lebanon may request the postponement or suspension of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington for a month or some limited period, Buwayz said: "It is too early to draw up a specific and final position on the peace negotiations, because such a position must be collective." He added: "Israel's failure to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolution 799 will harm the substance and form of the coming round of peace negotiations, because instead of devoting our time to discussing solutions to issues already on the agenda, we will have to increase the number of complex issues on the talks agenda."

Commenting on Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' allegations that Security Council pressure on Israel may endanger the peace process and make the Arabs more radical in their peace talks with Israel, the Lebanese foreign minister said it is strange for Israel to try to defend the peace process when it is actually torpedoing it through the deportation decision.

It is also surprising that we are discussing the implementation of old resolutions with Israel, while it refuses to comply with new ones, Buwayz added.

He said: How could we believe that those who refuse to implement Resolution 779 will observe Resolutions 242, 338, and 425? How could we carry on with an international peace conference primarily discussing the return of Palestinians to their occupied territories when Israel increases the number of Palestinian deportees?

Asked whether new U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher must visit the Middle East to prevent the collapse of the peace process, Buwayz said such a visit is now important.

He said the peace talks are now threatened with an impasse and need a new thrust, because Israel has been maneuvering since its latest election, particularly in the transitional period in the United States before President-elect Bill Clinton officially assumes power on 20 January.

Buwayz said the United States, as a sponsor of the peace conference and Washington negotiations, and—as it describes itself—a catalyst in the peace process, must boost the talks, which are being deadlocked and may stop if Israel continues its intransigence and refusal to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.

On the file that Lebanon will present to the Arab foreign ministers meeting, Buwayz—who will leave Beirut tomorrow morning to attend the meeting—said it contains four main subjects: a call for comprehensive Arab mobilization on the Palestinian deportees—an issue that has become a serious threat to the Arab nation; a call for an Arab summit; a demand that the Arabs present a joint request for a Security Council session to lay down a mechanism for implementing Resolution 799; and a call to adopt a common Arab position if Israel fails to comply with the resolution.

UN, ICRC Chiefs, DFLP Consulted

NC1001071893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri yesterday received a telephone call from UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and discussed with him developments in the Palestinian deportees issue.

Al-Hariri received a similar call from the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. They reviewed Lebanon's stand on the deportees.

[Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 0530 GMT on 10 January reports: "Prime Minister al-Hariri yesterday received a Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] delegation, which voiced full support for the Lebanese Government's stand on the deportation issue. The delegation urged the prime minister to maintain this stand against the various pressures that aim to help the Israeli enemy emerge from the tight spot it is in."]

Buwayz To Request Arab Summit

NC1101074493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Arab foreign ministers will meet in Cairo today to discuss the Palestinian deportees issue.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz will leave for Cairo this morning carrying an official request for an Arab summit. He said that the Arab ministerial meeting will discuss the possibility of forming a delegation including a number of Arab foreign ministers to attend the Security Council meeting in New York. He said the delegation will propose a collective Arab position demanding a practical mechanism and deadline for implementing Security Council Resolution 799, including a demand for imposing sanctions against Israel should it refuse to implement the resolution.

Buwayz said Lebanon first will propose convening an Arab summit at the level of heads of state to discuss this issue and make appropriate decisions. Lebanon also will call for a collective Arab demand that the Security Council define a mechanism for implementing the resolution on the return of the deportees and a deadline for their return.

Buwayz pointed out that Israel, which made the decision to deport the Palestinians, is capable of securing their return by land or helicopter. Therefore, he said, we will not agree to the use of the UN forces in the south for this purpose. He noted that Lebanon refuses exploitation of certain humanitarian factors to diminish the issue and empty it of its political substance.

Regarding the Lebanese proposals which he will present to the Arab foreign ministers meeting, Buwayz said these involve four basic issues: Exerting efforts to marshal comprehensive Arab mobilization regarding the deportees issue, which poses a serious threat to the Arab nation; calling for an Arab summit and for a collective Arab demand to convene a Security Council meeting to work out a mechanism for implementing Resolution 799; and calling for the need for a common Arab stand should Israel fail to implement the Security Council resolution.

Reportage on Red Cross Visit to Deportees

NC0901075493 Paris AFP in English 0719 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Jan 9 (AFP) - Two Red Cross delegates arrived Saturday at the headquarters of UN peacekeeping forces who are to take them to a camp of more than 400 Palestinians stranded in south Lebanon, UN officials said.

A doctor and another member of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Israel were to take a helicopter from the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) headquarters in al-Naqurah to the camp in Marj al-Zuhur.

It was not immediately clear if conditions were safe enough to reach the camp, where rain fell and a heavy fog lingered Saturday.

The one-off visit to the camp—allowed this past week by Israel amid pressure over its expulsion of 415 Palestinians on December 17—was cancelled Friday because of bad weather.

Team Forced To Land in UN Area

NC0901100593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] A trip by two Red Cross delegates to the Palestinian deportees camp has ended at the headquarters of a Finnish contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] in Dayr Siryan, 15 minutes after their helicopter took off from al-Naqurah. The aircraft was unable to reach the deportees camp because of bad weather.

The aircraft took off from the UNIFIL command in al-Naqurah at 0945 today and was scheduled to arrive at the camp at approximately 1030, but was forced to land 15 minutes after take off due to bad weather conditions.

UNIFIL's Official Spokesman Timor Goksel said the two Red Cross delegates are Swiss national Georges Comninos and Swiss Doctor Cordula Wolfisberg and that a third delegate, (Pierre Ritar), stayed in al-Naqurah. He added that the three delegates arrived in al-Naqurah from Israel by land at 0800.

Our security correspondent has learned that an Italian crew comprising two pilots and an assistant piloted the helicopter. This crew is part of an Italian helicopter contingent made up of 73 personnel working within the UNIFIL.

ICRC Team Arrives at Camp

NC0901101393 Paris AFP in English 0948 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Jan 9 (AFP) - Red Cross delegates on a UN helicopter arrived Saturday at a camp of Palestinian deportees here after UN officials said rain and fog forced them to briefly interrupt their trip.

The helicopter, with a doctor and another member of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Israel, landed at the rain-drenched camp where about 50 of the more than 400 Palestinians are reported ill.

The delegates exited from the helicopter, declining to talk to reporters.

Rain and fog forced the helicopter to land briefly at a post run by UN peacekeeping troops from Finland within Israeli-held areas of south Lebanon, about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the camp at Marj al-Zuhur, UN officials said. [passage omitted]

Two Deportees Taken From Camp

NC0901151293 Paris AFP in English 1425 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Jan 9 (AFP)—Red Cross delegates on a U.N. helicopter arrived Saturday at a camp of Palestinian deportees and left with one seriously ill man and a teenager aboard.

The helicopter, with a doctor and another member of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Israel, landed during the morning at the rain-drenched camp where about 50 of the more than 400 Palestinians are reported ill.

The Red Cross team embarked Zuhayr Labbadi, suffering from a serious kidney dysfunction, and 16-year-old Basam Siyuri, whom Israel acknowledged had been deported in error, taking off mid-afternoon for Ra's al-Naqurah, the headquarters of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon.

Rain and fog forced the helicopter to land briefly on its way to the camp at a post run by U.N. peacekeeping troops from Finland within an Israeli-held area of south Lebanon, about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the camp at Marj al-Zuhur, U.N. officials said.

The helicopter, flown by an Italian U.N. pilot, had taken off earlier from Ra's al-Naqurah, which is also inside Israel's self-declared "security zone," after the two Red Cross delegates arrived by road from Israel.

The one-off visit to the camp—allowed this past week by Israel amid pressure over its expulsion of 415 suspected Palestinian militants on December 17 in the wake of the murder of an Israeli border guard—was cancelled Friday because of bad weather.

The deportees spent their second night in a row on mattresses soaked by the rain and mud, an AFP correspondent said. Seven tents collapsed because of the rain.

About 50 deportees are now ill with flew, colds and scabies, a deportee spokesman said.

The ICRC chief in Jerusalem, Georges Comninos, and Doctor Cordula Wolsfisberg, the organization's medical coordinator, are travelling by helicopter to the camp to examine the deportees' condition.

Israel Readmits 1, Refuses Other

NC0901172793 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] According to the latest reports, the helicopter carrying the two International Red Cross representatives arrived at the Interim UN Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] headquarters in al-Naqurah from the deportees camp in Marj al-Zuhur at 1620 today. The helicopter was carrying two Palestinians: Zuhayr al-Labbadi, who is suffering from health problems, and Bassam al-Siyuri, 19, who had been deported by mistake on 17 December 1992. Shortly after the plane landed, the four passengers made their way to the Lebanese-Israeli border in a UNIFIL vehicle. The Israeli forces stopped the vehicle, allowed the mistakenly deported Palestinian to enter, and refused to allow the other in. Negotiations are under way on this matter.

It was also reported that the two Red Cross representatives spoke with the 10 deportees who had been expelled by mistake and told them that some of them might be arrested if they return to the West Bank. They also met 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Duwayk, who are in charge of the deportees. Duwayk told the two representatives: We have waited a long time for you. We wish to declare that our problem is how to return to our country, not one of food or medicines.

Duwayk added that the deportees will welcome any visitor who comes to view their plight on that desolate mountainside under such miserable conditions.

Al-Rantisi commented on the two representatives' visit, saying: They came to make sure we are still alive.

Deportee Refused Hospitalization

NC0901184093 Paris AFP in English 1803 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Report by Salim Yassine]

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Jan 9 (AFP)—The Red Cross helicoptered out two Palestinians Saturday after Israel for the first time allowed the organization to visit the 415 Palestinians it expelled to Lebanon three weeks ago.

Two delegates from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) branch in Israel evacuated a man suffering from kidney trouble and a teenager deported by mistake, AFP reporters said.

Georges Comninos, head of the Israel ICRC office and Doctor Cordula Wolsfisberg, medical coordinator, examined all the Palestinians stranded at the tented camp here, many of whom are reported ill amid rain and snow.

It was the first such examination since Lebanon—which says only Israel is responsible for the deportees—stopped Red Cross visits three days after the December 17 expulsions.

United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon, whose helicopter pilot helped the Red Cross evacuate the two, said that Israel allowed only 16-year-old Bassam al-Siyuri to return to the Israel-occupied territories.

Meanwhile, Lebanon refused to allow Zuhayr al-Labbadi, who is suffering from serious kidney trouble, go to the UNIFIL hospital in al-Naqurah, in the Israeli-held "security zone" in south Lebanon.

It proposed he be taken instead to the hospital in Marj 'Uyun, which is also in the zone, UNIFIL officials said.

The UNIFIL helicopter which had taken the two delegates to the camp in the morning—stopping briefly on its way because of heavy rain and fog—returned to al-Naqurah with the two Palestinians.

"We hope to come back soon, perhaps tomorrow," Comninos told AFP Saturday. But a return appeared unlikely as Israel, which says the deportees are Lebanon's responsibility, allowed only a one-off visit to the camp.

Comninos and Wolfisberg each visited all 53 tents and examined several dozen who are suffering from flu and lung infections caused by the wintry weather. Comninos said he met the remaining nine who were expelled by error to ask them if they wanted to return home.

Upon their arrival, the two delegates were greeted by banners strung outside the tents: "We don't want food, we want to go home," read one. "We want U.N. resolution 799 enforced," read another.

U.N. envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan is in Israel until Sunday in a new bid to make the Jewish state comply with U.N. resolution 799 ordering it to take back all the deportees. Israel says it will only accept 10 expelled "in error."

The bad weather has only got worse, with many sleeping on wet and muddy mattresses the past two nights. Seven tents collapsed.

"We were better in the prison in the Negev desert (southern Israel). Here we live like wild animals," Walid Abu-Shayni, 38, told AFP.

Deportees' Spokesman Holds UN Responsible

NC0901070193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The conditions of the Palestinian deportees are deteriorating due to a snow storm that is endangering their lives. Snow covered a number of tents and blew others away. Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the deportees' spokesman, said he wished that Red Cross officials would come to see for themselves the tragic conditions in which the deportees are living. He said he hopes the United Nations and the Security Council will do something quickly to prevent Israel from continuing its human rights violations, adding: We will hold the United Nations and the Security Council responsible for what happens to us.

UNIFIL on Request To Return Deportees

NC1001094793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], said he has not yet received any request to place a helicopter at the disposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to return the nine mistakenly deported Palestinians which the Israeli Government agreed to take back. He added that such a trip will not take place today, even if the UNIFIL receives a request.

Two ICRC delegates yesterday returned Palestinian teenager Bassam al-Sayyuri to his home in Hebron in the occupied territories through the UNIFIL command in al-Naqurah. They also moved sick deportee Zuhayr al-Labadi to Marj 'Uyun Hospital inside the security strip for treatment.

Sudanese Minister Arrives, Meets al-Asad

JN0701152593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus—At 1330 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, deputy prime minister and interior minister, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih arrived in Damascus at noon today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Heading those who were on hand to welcome him at Damascus International Airport were Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah; Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs; as well as 'Uthman al-Dardiri, Sudanese ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

In a statement to a correspondent of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, Maj. Gen. Salih said that he is carrying a message from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir to his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He noted that his Damascus visit comes within the context of bilateral ties, which are witnessing a tangible and steady growth.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr is accompanied by a Sudanese delegation including Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs.

Sudanese Minister Concludes Visit

JN0901155093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Front Command Council, deputy prime minister and interior minister, along with his accompanying delegation left Damascus this morning at the end of a three-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

Qatari Information Minister Ends Visit, Departs

JN0801154693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 8 Jan (SANA)—Dr. Hamad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kuwari, Qatari minister of information and culture, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this afternoon.

The Qatari minister was seen off at Damascus' international airport by Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman. [passage omitted]

Armenian Foreign Minister Leaves Aleppo 9 Jan

JN0901165593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Armenian Foreign Minister Arman Kirakosyan left Aleppo this afternoon at the end of a two-day visit to the Aleppo Governorate. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Heavy Clashes Reported in Kabul 8 Jan

LD1001142493 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Our correspondent in Kabul reports: On Friday [8 January] heavy clashes occurred between Dostam's militia and Supervisory Council forces in Pol-e Mahmud Khan [close to Presidential Palace], Darwaza-e Lahori, and Balahesar. The clashes started at 0800 and continued until 1100. The precise number of casualties is not yet known.

[Words indistinct] Also on Friday, heavy clashes took place between Supervisory Council troops, Dostam's militia, and Hezb-e Wahdat in the central Kabul areas of Sar-e Chawk, Mandhi, and Jada-e Maiwand. As a result 17 people were killed and 13 others were injured. [passage indistinct]

Hezb-e Eslami Claims Baghlan Captured 8 Jan

LD1001154293 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The old city of Baghlan has been conquered by Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin. According to a report from the Baghlan province fronts, Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin conquered the old city of Baghlan on Friday [8 January] after two days of fighting. [passsage indistinct] The same report says that fighting is now going on around Baghlan's sugar factory.

Kabul Hit by Rockets 9 Jan; No Casualties

LD0901142793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Kabul was subjected to rocket attack today. A responsible security source told a BIA military correspondent that as many as nine SAKAR type rockets were fired from the east into the city. They landed in Ward 2. Fortunately, they did not cause any casualties but have caused damage.

'Considerable Damage' Inflicted on Defense Ministry

LD1001154593 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Considerable damage caused by rockets was inflicted upon Kabul's Ministry of Defense. As an eyewitness, a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports from Kabul that as many as seven rockets hit the Ministry of Defense of the coalition administration of Kabul, and inflicted considerable damage on it. Quoting a reliable source, our correspondent reports: After the rockets landed at the Ministry of Defense, General Mas'ud sought refuge at Armour Brigade 101 next to a gas station in Khairkhana Mena. The source adds: After rockets landed at Arg [the Presidential Palace], President Rabbani escaped and sought refuge in a building next to AFSOTR [a transport company]. As a result of the rockets at the Ministry of Defense a number of people were killed and injured. We do not have the precise number of the casualties.

Six Injured in 10 Jan Kabul Missile Attack

LD1001170493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Today missiles were fired on Kabul City which injured six people and caused destruction to certain residential and state areas.

An authoritive source reported to a BAKHTAR military correspondent that a total of 13 missiles were fired today on Kabul City from the south and southeast which landed in the 2d and 10th wards of Kabul, seriously injuring six of our innocent compatriots. The injured were transferred to hospitals and were admitted for serious treatment and observation.

The source added that the missiles were fired by men belonging to Golboddin's Hezb-e Eslami.

According to reports by the security authorities, during the last week 89 missiles have landed in various areas of Kabul City. As a result 27 people have been martyred and dozens injured.

The missile attacks on Kabul City by Golboddin's groups have resumed at a time when the Muslim and defenseless people of Kabul are facing enormous difficulties and hardship resulting from the cold winter and problems from the past. To fire missiles and kill those people who have suffered [words indistinct] is not allowed by any religion and will bring nothing to the perpetrators other than God's wrath and indignation.

Islamic Unity Party Rejects Decisions of Council

LD0901164993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] of Afghanistan issued a statement on the latest developments in that country. It rejected the Resolution and Settlement Council and its decisions and said the best solution for the existing problems and difficulties in Afghanistan is the continuation of sincere talks between all jihad groups and political parties.

Iranian Official Meets President Rabbani in Kabul

LD1001192293 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 10, IRNA—Recent political developments in Afghanistan, the situation here and Tehran-Kabul bilateral relations were discussed by Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Ala'eddin Boroujerdi and Afghan President Borhannodin Rabbani today.

Boroujerdi said at the meeting that the Islamic Republic strives for restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan as before and hopes the Mojahedin forces will soon come to a full compromise.

He added that Iran believes that the Afghan crisis should be resolved by the leaders of the Mojahedin groups and normal living conditions should be provided for the Afghan people who have tolerated long years of hardship.

Rabbani in return appreciated the Islamic Republic's efforts in restoring calm and stability into Afghanistan and expressed hope that problems in his country would immediately be settled in cooperation with Iran.

Iran Official on Complexities, Missile Attacks

LD1001184193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Announcer's telephone interview with Ala'eddin Borujerdi, Iran's deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, following meeting with Afghan President Bornahoddin Rabbani in Kabul on 10 January—recorded]

[Text] [Borujerdi] We have been here for approximately 10 days on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the specific intention of talking to the leaders of Afghanistan's mojahedin groups and the esteemed president, His Excellency Mr. Rabbani. The aim of our trip to Kabul was to establish some kind of understanding between groups who are very much at odds with each other. During this period we had four meetings with His Excellency Mr. Rabbani and we also had talks and numerous meetings with the respected defense minister and leaders of the mojahedin.

The situation in Afghanistan is evidently complex. What is very important for us, for the Islamic Republic of Iran, is that Afghanistan should be calm and stable, bearing in mind the long frontier it shares with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Taking into account also the economic situation of that country and the difficulties faced by the people in terms of fuel and food during this bitterly cold winter, it is important that tensions, clashes, and differences should end as soon as possible. There is hope that this may be achieved through talks. Of course the dangers of war and armed clashes remain as serious as before, but the logical and acceptable solution is to put an end to the current difficulties through talks and active diplomacy.

[Announcer] Mr. Borujerdi, you have mentioned the danger of conflict and war in Kabul and the fact that from the point of view of the Islamic Republic of Iran this is disagreeable and blameworthy. While you have been in Kabul, we have had news that the city has been the target of missiles. What is your view on these attacks?

[Borujerdi] Of course, the responsibility for the missile attacks on Kabul was said to lie with Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, but according to the statement of this party, he has not accepted the responsibility. This has created a new ambiguity. Of course, where there is no understanding and no rule of logic, it is natural that the second alternative should take place—which is the worst of all—which includes military conflict and the attacks which have taken and are taking place [sentence as heard]. I think the continuation of efforts for bringing about an understanding is the only way that could solve and put an end to the current difficulties, that is the military conflicts, including missile attacks or sporadic clashes in the vicinity of the city.

As a neighbor to Afghanistan, we have carried out our responsibility with regard to this matter.

Bangladesh

Dhaka 'Disappointed' at SAARC Postponement

BK0901133493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1301 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Jan 9 (AFP)—Bangladesh said Saturday [9 January] it was disappointed at the second postponement of a South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit after India's Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao pulled out.

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman told reporters that New Delhi had informed Dhaka on Friday night that Rao would not be able to come to Bangladesh to attend the two-day summit, due to begin Wednesday.

Rao's decision not to attend the Dhaka summit "was taken entirely due to the internal situation now obtaining in India resulting from widespread communal disturbances which have spread all over the country," Rahman said.

However, an Indian Government spokesman in New Delhi told AFP, "The prime minister, after reviewing the situation in the region, has decided to call off his trip to Bangladesh," without attributing the decision to either India's communal problems or threats by Bangladeshi Muslims to disrupt the visit.

Bangladeshi Muslim fundamentalists had said they would disrupt Rao's visit to protest the demolition of a 16th century mosque by Hindu fanatics in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya on December 6.

Rahman said new dates would be worked out through diplomatic consultations for the Dhaka summit, originally scheduled for December, but postponed until January 13 after the razing of the mosque. [passage omitted]

Rahman declined to speculate on possible new dates for the summit, saying only, "It is not likely that it will be held very soon."

Indian State Minister for External Affairs R.L. Bhatia, who was due to arrive Sunday, would explain why Rao decided not to come, Rahman said.

Rahman also said Bangladesh would inform other SAARC members of Rao's pullout and tell them not to come.

Sources said Bhutanese Foreign Minister Dawa Tsering had already arrived from Thimpu and Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herat had left Colombo and was due to reach Dhaka late Saturday. [passage omitted]

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, SAARC's outgoing chairman, was to have handed over the rotating chairmanship to Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the Dhaka summit.

Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro is being sent by Rao as his special envoy to Colombo to "reschedule" the summit, officials said in New Delhi.

Faleiro will leave New Delhi Sunday for Sri Lanka to meet Premadasa and convey the reasons for Rao's inability to attend the summit, they added.

Indian Envoy To Explain Situation

BK1001152093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] R.L. Bhatia, Indian minister of state for external affairs, has arrived in Dhaka today as a special envoy of Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to discuss matters related to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] summit. He told newsmen at Zia International Airport that he will explain the situation in which the Indian Government wanted to postpone the seventh SAARC summit which was scheduled to begin in Dhaka on 13 January. Bhatia said that he will also discuss next possible date for the twice-postponed SAARC summit. The Indian minister was received at the airport by Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman.

Unusual Activity by Indian Border Forces Noted

BK1001115093 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 3 Jan 93 p 8

[Text] Our Kurigram correspondent reports that in the past two days, members of the Indian Border Security Force [BSF] have adopted a new strategy along the border of Kurigram District with India. After their day time routine work, at night they bring various materials, including poles and stones, in heavy vehicles and dump these goods in their old and new camps. Apart from this, they also bring unspecified numbers of local people along with heavy arms in vans and send them back before sunrise. Residents of the border area believe the BSF has adopted this strategy to evade the eyes of the local people. They further say that the Indian authorities have adopted this strategy after the publication of news in ITTEFAQ regarding the situation along the border.

It has been observed that due to these BSF activities, the people living on the Indian side of the border have quietly sold their properties and moved to safer places.

India

Bombay Situation Continues Tense, Death Toll Rises

Defense Minister Visits

BK0901041893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The situation in Bombay city and its suburbs is tense but under control. According to the police sources, 11 additional columns of the army have been deployed at Mahim and (Dharavi) in central Bombay, (Deonar) in northeast suburb, and Dongri, (Paironi), (Nagpara), and V.P. Road in south Bombay. Police said several incidents of arson, stabbing, and rioting were reported during the last 24 hours. Thirty-eight persons were killed in the street clashes and police firing. Two hundred and ninety eight persons have been injured.

Meanwhile, the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, arrived in Bombay last night to visit the riot-affected areas. Meanwhile, the state chief minister, Mr. Sudhakar Roy Naik, has asked the police to take firm action against troublemakers. He also asked to take all necessary measures to defuse the situation.

Army Given Orders To Shoot

BK0901154293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1432 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Bombay, Jan 9 (AFP)—Indian Defence Minister Sharad Pawar ordered the armed forces Saturday to act "ruthlessly" to end Hindu-Muslim bloodletting in Bombay as rioting claimed another 23 lives in the western Indian city.

"Ruthless action would be taken henceforth to deal with the situation," Pawar said in Bombay, India's commercial hub. The decision to give the army sweeping powers to shoot rioters on sight was taken as officials here said another 23 people were killed Saturday, taking the overnight toll from Hindu-Muslim clashes to 65. The minister, sent to Bombay by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, said his soldiers were taking over six worst-hit districts in the southern wings of the metropolis.

"The troubled areas have been given over to the army to deal with as the situation demands, including firing," Pawar said as soldiers in full battle gear began fanning out in Bombay's south.

"My soldiers would not hesitate to open fire," Pawar said.

Further Report

BK0901161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] In Bombay, shoot-at-sight orders have been given to the Army, which has taken up positions in the troubled areas of the city and suburbs. Talking to newspersons in Bombay today, the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sudhakar Rao Naik, said six additional Army contingents have been deployed in the sensitive localities. Eleven columns are already in action. He said that a major combing operation has been launched to recover illegal arms and round up antisocial elements. Mr. Naik said he had consultations with the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, and the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, on the situation and some important decisions have been taken to restore normalcy in the city.

In Gujarat, the Special IG [Inspector General of Police], Mr. A.K. Bhargav, will inquire into the incidents of violence in Ahmedabad city yesterday. Talking to newspersons, the chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, said that 10 columns of the Army have been deployed in the 10 police station areas of the city. Our Ahmedabad correspondent reports that five persons were killed today when police fired several rounds to disperse a violent mob indulging in looting, arson, and stone-throwing in Odhas, Amraiwadi, and Bapunagar areas.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India], the CPI, and the president of Jamaat-i-Ulema-i-Hind, Maulana Azad Madani, in separate statements issued in New Delhi have urged the government to take steps to restore normalcy in Bombay and Gujarat.

The Bihar government is to set up a crack force to contain communal violence. Announcing this at a public meeting in Madhubani today, the chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, said the force will have an effective strength of 10,000 police jawans [constables].

Violence Said Spreading to New Areas

BK1001002293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1756 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Bombay, Jan 9 (AFP)—Violence was spreading Saturday to new areas of Bombay with Hindu activists of Shiv Sena (Lord Shiva's Army) sponsoring organised attacks on Muslims despite the presence of troops with shoot-on-sight orders.

Police said fresh violence spread to the city's south-central, northwest and previously unaffected southern districts where mobs were burning cars, trucks and buses in systematic attacks.

"The Hindus and Muslims are fighting it out," a journalist said. "The Shiv Senas at the moment have an upper hand."

Before nightfall the day's death toll was put at 23 by police, after 68 people lost their lives violently overnight. Defense Minister Sharad Pawar, sent to Bombay by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to monitor the situation, was advised not to visit areas such as Jogeshwari where the rioting is widespread. Muslims and Hindus have fled their homes leaving the empty building open to arsonists and robbers, police added. Pawar ordered the armed forces Saturday to shoot rioters on sight to suppress the communal bloodletting, traceable to the December 6 razing of a controversial mosque by Hindu zealots in the northern city of Ayodhya.

"Ruthless action would be taken henceforth to deal with the situation," he said, adding that soldiers were taking over six worst-hit districts in the southern wings of the metropolis. The troubled areas have been given over to the army to deal with as the situation demands, including firing," Pawar said as soldiers in full battle gear began fanning out in Bombay's south. "My soldiers would not hesitate to open fire," Pawar said.

In New Delhi, the highest religious body of Indian Muslims described the demolition of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya and subsequent government actions as a "conspiracy" and told Muslims to oppose aggression.

"When their life, property, religion and honor are attacked, they should fight to defend these gifts of Allah," the All India Muslim Personal Law Board said in a resolution passed at a meeting in the capital. The meeting, attended by top religious scholars and jurists, called the takeover of the site of the razed mosque by the government a "blatant tyranny, illegal, and null and void under Shariah (Islamic law)."

It told India's 120 million Muslims to be prepared for a "long struggle" for the restoration of the mosque, which Hindus believe was built by a Moghul emperor in 1528 after demolishing a Hindu temple on the site of the birthplace of the warrior diety Rama.

"Government steps taken since the demolition of the mosque have been against Muslims," a delegation of the Board told Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao in the wake of renewed Hindu-Muslim clashes in Bombay and other western cities.

The government took over the disputed Ayodhya land this week, and decided to set up two trusts to build a temple and a mosque on the land. It also asked the Supreme Court to decide whether the razed mosque was built on the ruins of a Hindu temple.

Four More Army Columns Deployed

BK1001035893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] In Bombay, four more army columns have been deployed in the troubled areas of (Dadar), Barala, (Shuiri), and (Baikala). Several incidents of arson and looting have been reported from the areas and the situation in central and south central Bombay remained tense last night. The total army contingents deployed in the city has gone up to 21. The situation in localities like

Bandra, Kap, Korla, Deona, and Dombri is tense but under control. The fire brigade control room received several calls last night reporting fire incidents. Curfew will continue in central and south central Bombay.

New Violence; Death Toll Rises to 109

BK1001082093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] In Bombay, the situation in the south central area is reported to be tense with several incidents of arson, stabbing, and police firing in (Baikala), (Varoli), and (Madhgaon). Curfew was relaxed for two hours from six this morning in central and south central Bombay. Twenty-one army columns have taken up positions in troubled areas. The death toll in fresh violence has gone up to 109. More than 300 persons have so far been injured. Curfew has been reimposed in (Paithoni), Dongri, V.P. Road, (Gogeshwar), Nagpara, Mahim, (Dahravi), (Palachowki), and Dholwara. Curfew has been relaxed for the day in Bandra, Kap, Korla, and Deona police circles.

Bombay Still Tense, Violence Continues

BK1001162893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] In Bombay, the situation in the riot-affected areas continues to be tense with reports of several fresh incidents of violence. The Army, paramilitary forces, and the state police are out in full force to check the violence from spreading. Intensive combing operations are being conducted in the troubled spots to flush out the miscreants. The authorities have announced that night curfew will continue in most localities of south, south-central, and central Bombay.

The chief minister, Mr. Sudhakarrao Naik, accompanied by his cabinet colleagues, went around the affected areas. Talking to our correspondent, he reiterated the Government's determination to deal with the situation firmly. All those indulging in violence will be sternly dealt with. Mr. Naik said the issue of offering namaz [Muslim prayers] and performing maha arati [Hindu prayers] on roads is being discussed at the highest level and with the leaders of both the communities. The chief minister said a decision in this regard is likely to be announced tomorrow.

The former Maharashtra governor, Mr. C. Subramaniam, says certain foreign agencies are fomenting trouble in Bombay. Speaking to newspersons in Bombay today, he said the situation in the metropolis can be normalized if leaders from all walks of life come together and go to the people to calm their passions.

In Gujarat, the situation in Ahmedabad, excluding Gomatipur and Bapunagar areas, is reported to be peaceful today. Quoting official sources, our Ahmedabad correspondent reports that three persons were killed and eight injured when police had to burst teargas shells and fire several rounds to disperse a violent mob indulging in stone throwing, arson, and looting. Security arrangements and police patrolling have been intensified in Bapunagar following reports of fresh violence. Army jawans [soldiers] continue to stage flag march in the city.

Death Toll Rises to 130

BK1101040093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Three BSF [Border Security Force] companies have been air lifted to Bombay to help the local authorities in maintaining law and order there. A Home Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi that a battalion of the Rapid Action Force, RAF, is also been sent to Bombay. The spokesman said three companies of BSF and one battalion of RAF are going to Ahmedabad.

In Bombay, the situation remained relatively calm last night. The army staged flag marches in Nagpara, Dongri, Malat, Bikroli, Mahim, Dahravi, Gogeswari, and other sensitive areas of the city and suburbs. Curfew has been relaxed this morning for two hours from 1800. Nine incidents of stabbing were reported during the night. Besides, a few incidents of arson in the northeastern suburbs of the city. Curfew is being relaxed for the day in Bandra, Khar, Kurla, and Denoar. A group of prominent citizens including the sheriff of Bombay, Mr. Korkiwallah, met the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sudhakar Rao Naik, yesterday and requested him to hand over the city to the army. About 21 press reporters called on the chief minister and expressed concern over the situation. The chief minister reaffirmed the determination to restore peace and communal harmony, and said several steps are being taken against the rioters and antisocial elements. With 15 deaths in yesterday's violence, the death toll since 6 January has gone up to 130.

In Gujarat, nine persons were killed and 65 injured in police firing in Ahmedabad city yesterday. An incident of stone-throwing by a mob on the state roads and buildings minister, Mr. Dinsha Patel's, car is also reported. The attack took place near Naroda highway when he was returning to Gandhinagar from Nadial. Mr. Patel suffered minor injuries. However, no untoward incident has been reported since midnight last night. Two companies of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] have reached Ahmedabad and have been deployed in sensitive areas. Our Ahmedabad correspondent reports that there will be no relaxation of curfew in the city today.

More Paramilitary Rushed to Bombay

BK1101132293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] More paramilitary forces have been rushed to Bombay. Two battalions of the Rapid Action Force were dispatched to Bombay today. In addition, three companies of State Reserve Police were also airlifted during the day. According to a press note issued in New Delhi today, the additional force has been sent to the state on the direction of the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, who returned to the capital last night after a visit to Bombay. Mr. Chavan personally reviewed the law and order situation in Maharashtra with the state chief minister, Mr. Sudhakarrao Naik.

The situation in the city continues to be tense with reports of arson and stabbing during the curfew relaxation period this morning. The curfew has been reimposed in 14 police circles and the three companies of the BSF [Border Security Force] that reached Bombay today have been deployed in the troubled areas.

The situation in Ahmedabad is reported to be under control. According to the police no untoward incident has been reported, barring one of stabbing in Shahpur area this morning.

The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, says violence in Bombay has flared up because of various local factors and not as a result of the Ayodhya developments alone. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he said the first priority is to establish law and order and any other option like sending of the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] fact-finding team can be considered later. In reply to a question, he said both the Maharashtra and Gujarat governments are taking whatever steps are needed to contain the violence. He said the Congress-I government has worked out a three-point formula on Ayodhya and some people may criticize it as it is not possible to satisfy everyone. A booklet entitled Vanadalism at Ayodhya was released to the press expressing the party's resolve to build Ram temple and not to allow the misuse of the name of Ram for political gains.

The general secretary of the Indian Union Muslim League, Mr. G.M. Banatwala, has demanded that Bombay city be fully entrusted to the Army to restore peace. In a statement in Bombay today, he criticized the handling of the law and order situation by the Maharashtra government.

Ahmedabad Riot Toll Rises to 19, Curfew Continues

BK0901045093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] In Gujarat, the death toll in yesterday's riot in Ahmedabad, has gone up to 19. Nearly 106 people have been injured. The army is continuing its flag marches in the sensitive areas of the city. Police burst over 700 tear gas shells and fired 214 rounds to disperse a violent mob. The indefinite curfew in all areas of the city continues.

The Gujarat chief minister, Mr. C.B. Patel, rushed back from Delhi to Ahmedabad late last night and held a high-level meeting with the officials. He reviewed the situation in the Ahmedabad city. Mr. Patel also visited the trouble-torn areas in the city.

Another 24 Persons Killed in Ahmedabad

BK1001033893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] In Gujarat, 24 persons were killed and 68 injured in violent incidents in Ahmedabad yesterday. Police officials told our correspondent this morning that four persons who went to loot a factory at Odur were burnt alive as the factory caught fire. Police had to burst 480 tear gas shells and fire about 140 rounds to disperse violent mobs. The situation is reported to be tense and police patrolling has been intensified. The situation in other parts of the state remains peaceful.

Curfew Imposed in Karnataka Following Violence

BK1001040493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] In Karnataka, curfew was imposed in Kunigal town, sixty kilometers from Bangalore yesterday following reports of violence. The situation is now under control.

BJP Leader on Challenge to Ayodhya Ordinance

BK0901090693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] vice president, Mr. K.L. Sharma, says his party will challenge the ordinance issued on Thursday, acquiring 67 acres of land in Ayodhya and for setting up two trusts for building a temple and a mosque. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said this will serve no purpose at this stage and is bound to invite further complications.

Indian Muslims Urged To Defend Themselves

BK0901153193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1515 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (AFP)—The highest religious body of Indian Moslems Saturday described the demolition of an ancient mosque and subsequent government actions as a "conspiracy" and told Moslems to oppose aggression.

"When their life, property, religion and honour are attacked, they should fight to defend these gifts of Allah," the All India Moslem Personal Law Board said in a resolution passed at a meeting here Saturday.

The meeting, attended by top Moslem religious scholars and jurists, called the takeover of the site of the razed mosque by the government a "blatant tyranny, illegal, and null and void under Shariah (Islamic law)."

The body told India's 120 million Moslems to be prepared for a "long struggle" for the restoration of the mosque, which Hindus believe was built by a Moghul emperor in 1528 after demolishing a Hindu temple.

Hindu zealots destroyed the Babri mosque at Ayodhya in northern India on December 6, triggering a week of riots which left 1,150 people dead. Dozens have people have died in sporadic violence since then, mainly in western India.

"Government steps taken since the demolition of the mosque have been against Moslems," a delegation of the Board told Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao in the wake of renewed Hindu-Moslem clashes in Bombay and other western cities.

The government took over the disputed Ayodhya land this week, and decided to set up two trusts to build a temple and a mosque on the land. It also asked the Supreme Court to decide whether the razed mosque was built on the ruins of a Hindu temple.

Moslem leaders and bodies have rejected the government measures and decided to challenge them in court.

Protest Strikes Again Cripple Kashmir Valley

BK0901144593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 9 (AFP)—Strikes called by Moslem rebel groups to protest the slaying of 42 people by Indian troops crippled Kashmir for a third day Saturday as a high-powered ministerial team arrived to investigate the massacre.

Shops, schools, businesses, government offices and banks were shut across the Moslem-majority northern state bordering Pakistan, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported from the summer capital Srinagar.

The news agency said troops were patrolling the northern town of Sopore, where members of the Border Security Force (BSF) went on a rampage after an ambush by Moslem separatists left a trooper dead Wednesday.

Protestors shouting anti-Indian slogans demolished security bunkers early Saturday in Sopore and the town of Baramulla despite a curfew, PTI said, adding that gunshots were heard but no casualties reported.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri Moslem guerrillas. Islamabad, which disputes the ownership of Kashmir, says it gives only moral support to a campaign it describes as a struggle for self-determination.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao dispatched a federal team headed by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad to Sopore to assess the situation there following the massacre.

About 3,000 people have been killed in Kashmir since 1989 when Moslem militants launched a campaign to break away from India.

Pakistan Accused of Seeking To Destabilize Region

BK1001113493 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 25 Dec 93 p 9

[Text] A senior functionary of the Kashmir Democratic Forum (KDF) has said that Pakistan is seeking to foment trouble in Jammu and Kashmir, with the sole intention of destabilising the region, especially India.

According to Abdul Hamid Khan, central president of the KDF, "Pakistan has to create problems for India—that is the only way they can support the two-nation theory". He added: "The so-called nationalist movement, that is the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), has been completely hijacked by the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) ".

"I have been in meetings where the ISI has asked me to give them young people to be trained in terrorist tactics—Pakistan doesn't believe in democracy because it doesn't know what democracy is," Khan claimed in an interview with the INDIAN EXPRESS.

He said all progressive and democratic, forces in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) felt there were three key reasons for Pakistan's actions. "First, they have to save the two-nation theory by isolating Kashmir. Secondly, the survival of the military in Pakistan depends on the continuation of the troubles in Kashmir and finally, this is the best opportunity to destabilise India and the sub-continent", he declared.

Khan, a lawyer and former president of the Jammu and Kashmir Students' Federation in PoK says the KDF is for a national liberation movement, free from all prejudices. Headquartered in Switzerland, the organisation has several branches all over the continent (in Holland, Belgium, Germany, France), the United Kingdom, the United States and West Asia).

The KDF states that it has now severed its original links with the People's National Party (PNP) in PoK and avers that the only solution to the problem lies in negotiations. It seeks to lobby the United Nations as well as European nations to intervene in the Kashmir issue. "We have the support of all progressive and democratic forces in the PoK," Khan said.

KDF activists in Switzerland have presented a series of memoranda to various international organisations as well as to the Indian and Pakistani missions in which they have requested both New Delhi and Islamabad to allow Kashmiris to decide the fate of Kashmir.

While in an recent memorandum to the UN, the KDF had accused both India and Pakistan of not allowing the people of Kashmir the right to self-determination, Khan said a great share of the blame lay with Pakistan.

Detailing the lack of civil and fundamental freedoms in PoK, The KDF says that the region has been deliberately neglected by Pakistan. "If Pakistan is sincere about peace, it should first pull out its forces from Kashmir," it feels.

He said that the contracted him in his capacity as a student leader around 1987 when the organisation was seeking to penetrate Jammu and Kashmir. Now they have direct dealings with parties in the State like the Hizbullah and Allah Tigers, whose members are mostly unemployed young men", he asserted.

Tariq Saeed Khan, the president of the KDF's Swiss chapter said there were some 140 such groups operating in Kashmir. "We are appealing to both India and Pakistan to allow us to decide our own future—but our first enemy is Pakistan. We have seen Pakistani repression" he said.

Abdul Hamid said the youth recruited for terrorist activities are trained for no more than two or three weeks. "They are badly trained. They know how to use a grenade and sometimes a Kalashnikov—they are then sent back to create trouble, " he said.

He claimed to have a list of people who had been trained in this manner and sent over to India. "I can give you two names—Rauf Kahsmiri and Ali Hussein (both in Srinagar prisons) have been tained by the ISI," he said.

According to the KDF, arms once meant for Afghanistan have been diverted to the Valley.

The KDF proposes that Kashmir should come under UN supervision for a period of 5 to 7 years after which the people should be allowed to decide their fate through a referendum.

"If elections are held today, people will unfortunately choose to go with Pakistan. They don't realise how bad life in Pakistan is," he said.

Meanwhile, in a hand-out on the Ayodhya demolition, widely circulated in diplomatic circles, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Bern has said that "unless the world community responds with necessary alarm and briskness to this barbaric breach of civilised behaviour, the lives and properties of the Muslims in India will remain under dire threat."

Observors at the UN say that as Pakistan prepares to make its entry into the Security Council (beginning next year), the Kashmir issue and India-bashing will feature high on its list of priorities.

Pakistan Asked to Reduce High Commission Staff

BK1001125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] India has asked Pakistan to bring down the strength of its high commission personnel in New Delhi from 150 to 110 by the 10th of next month. It has also rejected Islamabad's long-pending request to allow it to use what Pakistan refers to as Jinnah House property in Bombay. A press release of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi today said the joint secretary, Mr. N.K. Bhadra Kumar, conveyed this to the acting high commissioner of Pakistan, Mr. Shahid Malik. He was also told that New Delhi will not allow from now on any temporary visa offices by Pakistan in places outside Delhi and Bombay. They will have to handle their visa work through their high commission in Delhi and the consulate general in Bombay.

The decision comes in the wake of Pakistan's decision to reduce the strength of the Indian consulate general in Karachi from 64 to 20.

Rao Not To Attend SAARC Summit; Meeting Postponed

BK0901053093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0519 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has called off a trip to Bangladesh next week following threats by Muslim extremists to disrupt the visit, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said Saturday.

"A new date for the seventh South Asian Association of Regional Conference (SAARC) summit is expected to be worked out through diplomatic channels," the news agency quoted official sources as saying in New Delhi.

Rao was scheduled to attend the two-day SAARC summit set to begin December 12 in Dhaka.

Bangladeshi Muslims protesting the demolition of an ancient mosque in India on December 6 by Hindu extremists had threatened to picket Dhaka airport to prevent Rao from attending the summit of the seven-nation regional group.

External Affairs Spokesman on Postponement

BK0901163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The seventh summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC—scheduled to be held in Dhaka next week has been put off indefinitely. The Bangladesh foreign secretary, Mr. Reaz Rahman, told newsmen in Dhaka today that this followed the inability of the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to attend the summit on Wednesday and Thursday. He said fresh dates to the summit would be worked out through diplomatic channels. But, he said, it does not seem likely that the summit will be held very soon.

In New Delhi, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that it is unfortunate that public demonstrations in some countries and actions amounting to interference in the internal affairs of India have continued to vitiate the atmosphere and these naturally have a negative impact on the prospects of the summit. He said that in the present circumstances, the political direction needed to provide greater substance and content to the regional cooperation in South Asia cannot be achieved. He said that India had readily agreed to the new dates after the summit was postponed earlier in the hope that the situation in and around India would stabilize and political tensions created by the actions of some other countries in the subcontinent would have abated. But, this did not happen. The spokesman said the prime minister will be in touch with the leaders of other SAARC countries to convey India's views on the subject. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, will be going to Sri Lanka and possibly the Maldives while the other minister of state, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, will be going to Bangladesh and Nepal in this connection.

Postponement Termed 'Inevitable'

BK1001060093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Commentary by D. Sen]

[Text] The postponement of the seventh summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, scheduled to be held in Dhaka next week was unfortunate but inevitable in the prevailing circumstances. India has officially made a grievance of the fact that the public demonstrations in Bangladesh over the Ayodhya developments amount to an interference in India's internal affairs. The Bangladesh Government, predictably, will indulge in hair-splitting and say that it cannot prevent agitations in a democratic society. It would theoretically be a correct stand, except that Dhaka's duplicity in the matter is no more concealed as Pakistan's on the question of the Kashmir militants threatened march across the Line of Control. If security forces shot down two of the so-called long marchers outside the Jessore town, Bangladesh was only sparing itself an international embarrassment.

Dhaka's implied rejection of the Ayodhya developments as an internal affair of India is clear from the decision that the Bangladesh Parliament has slated for the 17th of this month a debate on the Ayodhya issue. In making that decision, Dhaka has fallen in line with Pakistan, where the National Assembly has already passed a resolution to condemn India for the demolition of the Babri mosque. Since a large body of India's national opinion expressed a sense of outrage and anguish over the Ayodhya event, it is patently malignant for both Pakistan and Bangladesh to keep alive the Ayodhya issue and spread communal hatred across the subcontinent.

The second postponement of the SAARC summit this year, raises vital questions that are relevant for the future of the organization. Dhaka and Islamabad must make it clear whether they want the SAARC charter to be amended to permit the raising of bilateral and internal matters at the SAARC forum. Article 10 of the charter specifically prohibits a reference to these subjects. The Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has expressed the opinion in media interviews that he wants the charter amended. No other SAARC member has expressed such a desire, although the Bangladesh Government's actions nearly approximate to an agreement with Pakistan. It can be presumed that the two ministers of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, and Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, will probe the minds of government leaders on this question when they visit the SAARC capitals of Kathmandu, Thimpu, and Colombo.

Let it be recalled that SAARC had a delayed and hesitant beginning precisely because of reasons which threatens the survival today. Clearly, the organization has no future if it gets embroiled in bilateral disputes. SAARC was not formed only for India's benefit nor will it exist only for the political benefit of Bangladesh and Pakistan at India's cost. The threadbare cooperation can be picked up again only when some of the SAARC members realize that the benefits of association must be equally shared and more importantly, showing their action that they believe so.

Civil Aviation Minister Resigns After Plane Crash

BK0901081293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The civil aviation minister, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, has resigned following the crash of the Russian-made Tu-154 plane at Delhi airport early this morning. In a statement, Mr. Scindia said that he is deeply anguished at the accident. He said the Indian Airlines management was compelled to take on lease the Tu-154 aircraft following the unfortunate attitude of the pilots. Mr. Scindia said he will not be at peace if he did not tender his resignation. Immediately after visiting the site of the accident, Mr. Scindia met the prime minister and tendered his resignation.

All the 163 persons on board the Indian Airlines flight had a miraculous escape when a Russian-built Tu-154 plane crash-landed at the Delhi airport at 0410 this morning. Of the 152 passengers, four were children when the 11-member crew comprised nine Russians and two Indian stewards. The 165 seater Tu-154 aircraft on lease from Uzebekistan airlines was on a flight from Hyderabad to Delhi and was operating about eight hours behind schedule. The Uzbek pilot of the plane said that the visibility was poor because of thick fog.

The Indian Airlines chairman, Mr. Vasudev, told our correspondent that investigation has started and an inquiry will be set up. Most of the passengers, who sustained minor injuries, were given first aid at the airport and sent home. Only six passengers with injuries were admitted to hospitals.

Indian Airlines has grounded all the Russian-built Tu-154 aircraft which it had acquired on lease from the Uzbek Airways following the strike by the airline's pilots. The decision was taken soon after the crash of the Tu-154 aircraft at Delhi airport this morning. According to the director general of the civil aviation, Mr. M.R. Sivaraman, a high-level committee has been asked to go into the feasibility of the aircraft. Mr. Sivaraman, who was present at the site of the crash, said the committee has been asked to give its report by this evening.

BJP's Advani, Other Arrested Hindu Leaders Released

BK1001161893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The six arrested leaders of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and two banned organizations—VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad] and Bajrang Dal—including Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Mr. Lal Krishna Advani have been released. They were produced before the chief judicial magistrate, Mr. R.R. Yadav, at Matatila today on the expiry of their judicial custody. The other leaders released are Mr. Vishnu Hari Dalmia, Mr. Ashok Singhal, Mr. Vinay Katiyar, and Miss. Uma Bharati. These leaders were lodged in Matatila in Lalitpur District of Uttar Pradesh. The state chief secretary, Mr. T.S.R. Subramaniam, told our Lucknow correspondent that since the investigation in the case is nearing completion, the investigating team did not press for their further remand.

Iran

Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers 8 Jan

LD0801234193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi in Tehran on 8 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] First I will refer briefly to foreign affairs and the issue of the Babri Mosque. I say, in one word, that I—as a judicial authority and considering my knowledge—see the court that recently issued permission to those who demolished the mosque to pray to be under the influence of political parties. The judge that acts under the influence of a political atmosphere cannot judge fairly. I see that judgement as an incorrect judgement. I explicitly tell the Indian Government that the issue is not only that of demolishing a mosque, it is a great deal more subtle. They should be more careful. [passage omitted]

The Indian Government should know that the main root of the problem is that they are against the existence in the region of a powerful government that has so many different nationalities.

My last word on this problem is that if the Indian Government should be assured that world Muslims will never be content with anything less that the rebuilding of the Babri Mosque. [crowd chants "God is the greatest; Khamene'i is the leader; down with those who oppose the rule of the supreme jurisconsult; down with America; down with Britain; down with the hypocrites and Saddam; down with Israel; Islam is victorious; America is annihilated."]

God willing, as time is short, please allow me... [pauses] I will drop from my speech the issue of the UN secretary general's plan, which he has prepared for the future of the world and has elaborated upon, because this is a subject for much deeper political discourse. I tell the secretary general briefly that in plans that concern the world, peoples and nations should be taken more into account.

The formation of arbitration centers [marakez] should be turned into the formation of judicial centers; arbitration centers can achieve nothing. Arbitration means after the agreement of the two sides. [sentence as heard] No problem is solved through the agreement of both sides. What arbitration authority can resolve all the corruption that you see in the world; all the tyranny that you see perpetrated in the world by the powers? Go for a judicial authority. I am certain that the world will come to this point sooner or later. We have sometimes suggested that a judicial authority—that is, an international court—be set up, not an international arbitration authority. This exists today but is ineffectual. I will set this subject aside.

Another sentence that the magazine—please pay attention, unfortunately in this short space of time... [pauses] The extensive Western propaganda, most of which stems from America, has argued against the system. The WASHINGTON POST MAGAZINE, most unashamedly in my view, declares most formally and explicitly—this is the phrase used—that Tehran is the source of disorder in the world. Tehran is the source of disorder in the world.

Then you see that some European countries have followed up the issue in their magazines, on their radio stations, and in their news media and have developed it. Or the sentence that you yourselves heard from the radio, from our own mass media, saying that the head of the U.S. CIA expresses concern over Iran's industrial progress. If we look more carefully at the way it is phrased, we see that he expresses concern over Iran attaining advanced technology.

Because I have no time to elaborate, I will give you a list. Is the merciless slaughter of Muslims in Bosnia, the expelling of combatant Palestinians by the usurper Zionist regime—which has even brought your peace talks, your so-called peace talks, to the brink of collapse—Iraq's attack against Iran, Iraq's attack against Kuwait, the Nagorno-Karabakh war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the events in Tajikistan, the actions of neo-Nazis in Germany, the dispute between Egypt and Sudan, the dispute between Qatar and Saudi Arabia—which some believe has been resolved, but it has not—the invasion of Somalia by the United States, unification of the two Germanys, the two Koreas becoming united on many issues, nine European countries abolishing their frontiers and adopting a single currency, one European country dividing into two under these very circumstances and transforming into Czech and Slovak states, and dozens of more issues, what happens in Afghanistan and in other parts of the world... [pauses] I have a short list of issues, each of which I would have liked to say a few words about, but there is no time. I ask them, is Tehran to blame for such things? What do they have to do with Tehran?

Tehran has always clearly stated its position on all these issues—on Bosnia, on the expulsion of the Palestinians, on Tajikistan and Nagorno-Karabakh, and on other issues familiar to us all. Has Tehran taken any position except for peaceful, rational, and guiding positions that respect international law? Why do you constantly say that Tehran is the source of trouble? If you find the root of this trouble... [pauses] Let me ask: Who started this phrase? Did it not start in the U.S.? The rest have followed it and they are all lies. The source of trouble is the U.S. itself, which follows domineering policies.

Let me just say a few more sentences: First, the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that it has never had, and it shall never have, any intention to occupy or dominate the territory of others. Domination and expansion are both banned by our Constitution. Our foreign policy is clear. Naturally, we will never allow anyone to reach or occupy even an inch of our soil.

Please let me continue. Mr. Clinton, the new U.S. president: I am officially and clearly telling you on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran that those days are gone, the days when plots were hatched and implemented by the shahs, agents, puppet governments, or foreign-inspired coup d'etats. Those days are gone. Today the level of thought and insight of the peoples of the world has increased as a result of communications, travel, and modern telecommunication systems.

If you have political wisdom, then listen to us: Respect the people of the world, not those you have put above them. Do not think that you can achieve anything by relying on weapons. Hear this advice from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and if you do not listen, you will see its outcome in the future. [crowd chants "Death to America!"]

Commentary on Iraqi Motives in Missile Withdrawal

LD1101103093 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—An Iranian daily Monday commented that Iraq pursued double objectives by withdrawing its SAM-2 and SAM-3 missiles from the "no-fly" zone following an ultimatum issued by four members of the U.N. Security Council.

The U.S., Russia, France and Britain issued an ultimatum to Iraq to alter the direction and the shooting range of its missiles in the no-fly-zone region. According to Pentagon with Iraq's obeying the ultimatum the allied forces were no longer threatened by the missiles.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial writes that Iraq's objectives behind its manoeuvers against the allied forces are two-fold: internal and international.

On the home front, it said, the Baghdad rulers were trying to divert the local public attention away from the numerous economic and social problems by creating new causes every now and then.

"On the international side Saddam Husayn has been trying to make the recent issue appear as a rather personal confrontation between Iraq and George Bush. At the same time the new move in southern Iraq will serve as a test of the new American leadership under Clinton."

The daily believes that Iraqi rulers are trying to convince Washington that ending their enmity with Iraq would help that country confront Iran as the leader of the Islamic revolution, which in their opinion, is the greatest threat for the region.

The U.S. has not given a clear response yet, but Clinton's policies on the Persian Gulf have prepared the ground for Saddam to test the U.S. position every now and then.

"Consequently the region awaits the new U.S. Administration's clear and precise stance on the highly critical Persian Gulf region," the daily concludes.

Iraqi Missile Issue Said To Benefit U.S. Arms Sales

LD1001213393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the foreign minister of Iraq, in a statement yesterday dismissed the warning issued by the UN Security Council against preventing the flights of UN aircraft, and stressed that UN officials should use Iraqi airplanes or the land route for entering Iraq. [passage omitted]. It appears that the Iraqi rejection of the UN Security Council warning was mostly aimed at soliciting public opinion within Iraq and abroad.

A noteworthy point in these developments relates to the all-out western propoganda, especially the U.S. clamor on the subject. This issue has even been acknowledged by some of the reporters. Many political experts believe that this vast-ranging propaganda has so far succeeded in considerably reducing the pressure of the world public opinion upon the Zionist regime which has, in a illegal move, deported more than 415 Palestinians. This act has also overshadowned the events of Bosnia-Hercegovina at a time when about five days are left until the termination of the deadline set by the Islmaic states in respect of breaking the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia-Hercegovina.

But the real effect of the western propaganda about the anti-aircraft missiles of Iraq lies in overplaying the danger of the Saddam regime for the regional states. This will lead to further closeness of those countries with major world powers and the purchase of large amounts of weapons from them. In this way the Western states, especialy the sellers of weapons such as America, France, Britain, and Russia, too, will benefit from such crisis. At the same time, Saddam Husayn, too can preserve its anti-West posture and continue to test the degree of the sensitivity of the U.S. President-designate Bill Clinton in the case of the Iraqi regime. So far Clinton has, on several occasions, referred to the continuation of the Bush policy with regard to Iraq, and recently, by endorsing the deadline given to Baghdad, has declared that he will never tolerate the breach of the UN resolutions.

Meanwhile, in view of the current crisis between Iraq and the UN Security Council, or in fact between Baghdad and Washington, one can contend that the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, which has been fully bolstered with the arrival of the U.S. anti-aircraft carrier Kitty-Hawk, along with 10 accompanying warships, can be plausible from the viewpoint of the White House. However, the regional nations, especially the Iraqi muslims, will not only fail to benefit from the situation but will also suffer much famine.

Ministry Denies Involvement in Iraq Bombings

LD0901164393 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Saturday [9 January] categorically denied claims raised by the Iraqi state television that Iran was involved in a series of bomb explosions in Iraq last year.

In a mock television interview, three Iraqi nationals identified as army deserters appeared on Baghdad television Thursday night and confessed to involvement in sabotage activities in Iraq upon orders from Iran.

An informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, denying the claims made by the Iraqi television, said the goal of the Saddam regime in levelling such unfounded accusations was to distract world public opinion from Iraq's tragic internal situation.

Oil Minister on Commissioning of New Pipelines

LD0901134093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh took part in a news conference this morning, at which he announced the commissioning of two new pipelines for the transfer of oil products. Our correspondent asked him about the characteristics of the two pipelines and their role in the removal of the current fuel distribution problems. We invite you to listen:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The commissioning of a new oil pipeline from Bandar 'Abbas to Kerman would improve the transfer of oil from the country's ports to the interior of the country. Mr. Aqazadeh, please tell us about the new pipeline.

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With the commissioning of the Bandar 'Abbas-Kerman pipeline, which has the capacity to transfer 100,000 barrels of oil products each day, we hope that the nationwide distribution of fuel will continue to improve. This pipeline will also be connected to Esfahan from Kerman and from Esfahan it will provide an appropriate service to the nationwide network. In addition, the fuel needs of the Sistan va Baluchestan region, Kerman, Yazd, and the south of Khorasan will be met through the same pipeline.

Another pipeline was commissioned last Thursday, running from Tehran to Zanjan. This will improve fuel distribution in Zanjan province and the neighboring cities.

I hope that the ad hoc problems which have occurred in some cities during the past seven or eight days will improve during the next week or so, when the products of this network reach all corners of the country.

[Correspondent] Will the commissioning of the new pipelines affect the imports of oil products?

[Aqazadeh] This pipeline network will enable us to transfer, with considerable speed and in considerable volume, the existing huge amounts of oil products which we currently have at sea. Also, I have to announce that we are not planning to reintroduce the coupon system for kerosene.

[Correspondent] Every now and then new measures are introduced to improve the distribution of oil products within the country, but during winter we hear occasionally hear complaints about fuel shortages in some provinces of the country. What are you going to do to remove that problem completely?

[Aqazadeh] God willing, I do not envisage any more problems for the future. God willing, we will have a good month of Bahman [beginning 21 January].

We are planning to provide 40 million liters of kerosene each day until the end of the current year [20 March]. This is at least 15 million liters more than the daily provision last year. Fortunately we faced no problems in the provision of gas oil this year; we also envisage no further problems and that is the same for other products. I hope that we will no longer face fuel problems from next week or so, when the products of these pipelines reach various parts of the country. [end recording]

Forecasts $18 Billion Oil Income

LD0901145893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh announced in a news conference today that with the commissioning of two oil pipelines—one from Bandar

'Abbas to Kerman and the other from Tehran to Zanjan—the ad hoc shortage of oil products in various areas of the country will be eliminated. [passage omitted]

According to our correspondent's report, the oil minister denied the probability of reintroducing rationing of oil products as well as raising fuel prices. He said: The use of a quota system for some oil products in a few border areas, including Sistan va Baluchistan, was mainly as a result of requests by local authorities, in order to prevent the smuggling of those products outside the country. The government has no plans for reintroducing fuel rationing or raising prices.

He said the government's forecast for oil revenues next year [beginning 21 March] is around $18 billion. This can be attained by exporting 2.7 million barrels per day at around $17 dollars per barrel, he stated. He recalled that Iran oil prices have never been lower than $16.30 in the past four years. [passage omitted]

Comments on Oil Output

LD0901155193 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1415 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Oil Minister Aqazadeh says the petroleum output has reached 23 million liters per day this winter, which is 3.5 million liters more than scheduled.

Interviewed today, Mr. Aqazadeh further said: The daily output of petroleum products which were domestically marketed in December exceeded 7.5 million liters. The figure, he added, reached 15 million liters this winter. The Iranian oil minister then revealed that no raise in the prices of oil products has been predicted in the near future.

He further referred to Iran's oil export revenues which he said sand at 2.7 million barrels in the next Iranian year's budget. Mr. Aqazadeh afterwards put the average price for each barrel of Iranian oil at between $16.3 and $17.3 per barrel in the next Iranian year.

On the current Iranian output, the Iranian oil minister said in December Iran produced 3.6 million barrels of oil. That was decreased to 3.5 million barrels in January, which corresponds with the quota set by OPEC. He pointed out that the OPEC secretary general has been informed of Tehran's readiness to reduce its output by another 2 percent if other OPEC members follow suit, and if such reduction is realized all prices will rise.

Meanwhile the Oil Ministry said Iran is to export 250 million cubic metres of natural gas to Azerbaijan in 1993. Based on an agreement signed during an Azeri delegation's recent visit to Iran, Azerbaijan in return will export 100,000 tonnes of diesel oil to Iran. Azerbaijan will repay its loans for import of gas in 1992 through export of diesel oil to Iran from 1994.

Pakistani, Iranian Officials View World Issues

LD0901175993 Tehran IRNA in English 1553 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—Tehran-Islamabad bilateral ties, and important Islamic world and international issues were discussed here between a Pakistani delegation headed by Parliament Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan and Iranian officials.

Based on a press release issued today at the end of the Pakistani delegation's visit, Iran and Pakistan while condemning Palestinian Muslims expulsion from their homeland by Israel, called for their repatriation and restoration of their rights.

The two sides also underlined the need for adoption of measures by the international forums to stop Serbian aggressions against Bosnian Muslims and put an end to the "brutal and mischievous" policy of "ethnic cleansing.".

The Pakistani and Iranian officials condemned the "horrible and incredible" destruction of the Babri mosque in Faizabad on December 6 by Hindu vandals and called for reconstruction of the mosque at its original site.

They also agreed to cooperate with each other in drawing world support to restore peace and stability into Afghanistan.

On the issue of Kashmir, the two countries blasted the Indian police's tough actions against Kashmiri Muslims and the ignorance of their legal rights to determine their will.

Ayub Khan and Iranian officials also referred in their talks to the need for convention of a conference in Islamabad in a near future by Islamic countries parliaments to help resolve Muslim nations issues.

They also welcomed expansion of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and agreed on the formation of a conference composed of ECO member states parliaments to establish an ECO parliamentary organization.

They welcomed formation of friendship groups in the two countries parliaments, reviewing the laws needed to facilitate bilateral cooperation and computerized exchange of expertise and general information.

Khan arrived here on January 1st at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Nateq-Nuri, ministers of foreign affairs and roads and transportation, 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia respectively.

He invited Nateq-Nuri to pay an official visit to his country, which was accepted.

Khan left for home later today and was seen off by Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri at Mehrabad airport.

At a news conference at the airport, Khan said he exchanged views with Iranian officials on international, regional issues including banishment of 415 Palestinians on Dec. 17, developments in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Afghanistan, Kashmir and India over destruction of the Babri mosque there.

The Pakistani delegation also studied economic projects over setting up a refinery and pipelines in Pakisan by the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as laying rails between Kerman and Zahedan and linking Zahedan to Pakistan's Baluchistan Province.

Pakistani Speaker Departs

LD0901150993 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1415 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The Pakistani Parliament Speaker, Gauhar Ayub Khan, who arrived in Tehran last week heading a high-ranking delegation, returned to his country today, being seen of by Majles Speaker Ahmad Nateq-Nuri.

Upon his departure, the Pakistani official described as very constructive his dialogues with Iranian officials and said the issues raised at the meetings included the problems facing Muslims across the world, the plight of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, occupied Palestine, and Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the expansion of Irano-Pakistani ties in various fields. The two sides expressed similar views on most of the topics discussed.

Government Seeks Protection of Citizens in India

LD1001172493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Following the events of the past two days in Bombay, where the property of Iranian residents were subjected to violence and their houses and places of business and trade damaged and looted by aggressive elements, the Iranian Foreign Ministry has for the second time in the past 24 hours summoned the Indian charge d'affaires in Tehran and handed him a protest note expressing the deep concern of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI].

The government of the IRI expressly calls on the government of India to take the necessary measures to protect the safety of the life and property of Iranian citizens resident in that country, to compensate their damages, and to identify and punish those responsible for these events, the note says.

It should be pointed out that the incidence of these events, which started after the destruction of Babri mosque by extremist Hindus, has recently shown a signgificant increase following the failure of the Indian government to take serious measures to curb aggression by Hindu extremists against the Islamic sanctities and to mete out justice.

Practical Measures To Save Bosnian Muslims Needed

LD1001111893 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—A Persian daily said Sunday [10 January] that time was ripe for taking a practical measure to save the Bosnian Muslims and stop the brutal massacre of Muslims in Europe.

"JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" in its editorial referred to the approach of January 15 deadline set by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for the Security Council to protect the Bosnian Muslims against Serbs atrocities and asked if any effective, serious and practical measure had been worked out by the Muslim countries.

Stressing that the hardships the Bosnian people were facing did not leave any place for leniency, the daily said that evidences prove that all Islamic countries should enter the scene and make a decisive and explicit decision to intervene in Bosnia and end the present situation.

The editorial called on the defence ministers of Islamic countries to gather together to hammer out a joint operation as soon as possible.

Endorsement of OIC's viewpoints by the U.N. General Assembly proves that the world community is decisive about the necessity of serious and effective military measures in this regards.

Warning against obstacles which may be created by the West, it said that everybody should be sure that the world of Islam is decisive in this regard.

It stressed that some enemies of Islam would keep silent towards Serbs atrocities in Bosnia in order to let them continue their crimes but it is the world of Islam that should show its decisiveness in ending Muslims genocide in Bosnia through its position-takings.

"It is time for action now and the world is looking forward to witnessing the practical measure of the Islamic world to save the Bosnian Muslims. Only in this way the brutal massacre of Muslims in the heart of Europe would be stopped," concluded the editorial.

Majles Condemns Geneva Talks, Serb Actions

LD1001125393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpts] In today's open Majles session, a bill granting exemption from the payment of document registration fees relating to legal pledges made by students on scholarships and members of scientific and research groups sent abroad was approved after the second reading. [passage omitted]

In the session, a bill relating to the powers and duties of the head of the judiciary was also discussed and approved. According to the bill, all the powers and responsibilities which have been granted, in various laws, to the Supreme Judicial Council will be transferred to the head of the judiciary. [passage omitted]

The generalities of a bill granting permission for the participation of one deputy minister and the heads of independent organizations in councils, supreme councils and assemblies, which, according to the law, are made up of several ministers was also approved. [passage omitted]

In the session, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri commemorated 9 January, the anniversary of the uprising of the Qom seminary students and theologians against the oppressive monarchical system. He said: These events accelerated the movement of the Islamic revolution toward victory. [passage omitted]

The Majles speaker condemned the Serbs' crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Criticizing the passive attitude and indifference of the United Nations and its troops toward the assassination of Bosnia-Hercegovina's deputy prime minister, he added: It is not clear what the UN troops are supposed to be doing there; on the one hand, crimes of this kind are committed and the criminals are protected and, on the other hand, in Geneva, meetings are held to dismember Bosnia-Hercegovina and to prevent the formation of an Islamic government in Europe.

Tehran Views Cairo's Border Dispute With Sudan

LD0901125393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1103 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] While Sudan is trying to settle its border dispute with Egypt through diplomatic channels, Cairo is insisting on laying claim to its sovereignty over the border region of Hala'ib.

Egypt earlier rejected reports of its aggression against Sudan's territory. The prevailing conditions, however, show that Egypt, bent on asserting its domination over Hala'ib, prefers military action to bilateral talks. In fact, lack of necessary flexibility by Egypt in settlement of this border dispute has forced Sudan to react to Cairo's military and propaganda acts. As a result, Sudan has raised the issue of unilateral downgrading of its diplomatic ties with Egypt.

Sudan is adopting its cautious moves at a time when Egypt is steadily insisting on its sovereign right over Hala'ib. It is also engaged in military acts and the construction of satellite towns in that region. These acts raise the question, in political circles, of the factors that are responsible for Cairo's intransigent stance against Khartoum. The answer to that question can be found in two key issues. The first concerns the conditions which prevail in the region and the second is related to Egypt's own present position.

The collapse of some of the states in the region and subsequent developments have forced Egypt to follow events with a great deal of concern. Any changes in that region would have a direct and indirect impact on Egypt. What is obvious is Cairo's deep anxiety with regard to current developments in the Arab world. These are developments which have gradually brought about a decline in Egypt's role and importance in the region. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, it seems that Egypt is no longer enjoying its former position in the Red Sea area. Cairo finds this even more untenable when it witnesses the emergence of rivals in that strategic region. Recent successes by Khartoum in solving some of its domestic problems as well as the emergence of Sudan as a country with an active role in the region have forced Egypt to look at Sudan as a rival that is gaining strength just as Cairo's regional policies are weakening.

Of course, recent domestic developments in Egypt must not be overlooked here either—developments which assume more complicated forms as the days pass by. At first Cairo was trying to attribute these developments to foreign countries, especially to its neighbor Sudan. Now it is trying to raise the issue of Hala'ib in an effort to divert the attention of political circles to its southern borders, in the hope of reducing existing tensions at home. [passage omitted]

In any case, relations between Sudan and Egypt are deteriorating at a time when, with the arrival of the Allied forces in Somalia, the region is living through a heightening crisis. In such a situation, Cairo has committed aggression against the Sudanese territory on the pretext of its border dispute with Khartoum in the hope that it can regain its traditional position in the Nile basin. Yet, in the opinion of political observers, insistence by Cairo on regaining its former position would swing the region into a new crisis and catastrophe.

Khamene'i Emphasizes Role of Religious Leadership

LD0901201793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] On 19 Dey [9 January], the anniversary of the bloody uprising of the people of Qom, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, delivered a speech to a large gathering of religious scholars, clergy, and people from the city of Qom in which he spoke of the day as the start of an important period in the history of the Islamic revolution in Iran and described religion and the religous leadership as the cause of the victory and survival of the Islamic Republic and of the prevention of any deviation or comprimise with the superpowers.

In the meeting, the eminent leader commemorated the heroine of the epic of Karbala, Her Holiness Zaynab Kobra [sister of Imam Husayn, third Shiite Imam], peace be upon her, and praising the decisive uprising of the people of Qom on 19 Dey 1356 [9 January 1978], he described the town as a focal point for the revolutionary uprising and the enthusiasm and zeal of the Muslim Iranian nation.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the link between the revolution and religion, between Islamic teachings and the clergy as an important phenomenon and said: Iran's historical experience shows that if our revolution was not intermingled with religion and if the movement had not been led by religous leaders, the revolution would not have succeeded, would not have survived, and would not have been able to continue along its path without deviation and without falling into the clutches of the superpowers. The enemies of the revolution, inside and outside the country, have realized that religion and the religious leadership are the driving and preserving force of the revolution. Therefore, they are seriously endeavoring to rob the revolution of this blessed component.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said that the motive of the United States, the arrogant powers, and their allies in their struggle against the revolution is opposition to religion. He said: Islam is the standard-bearer of the defense of human rights. However, our enemies try to distort Islam in the minds of the people of the world by presenting it as being against human rights; this at a time when the behavior of the false defenders of human rights toward the Palestinians, who have been driven from their homeland and birthplace for no other crime than being supporters of Islam, as well as the evil ploy of the satanic powers in preventing the provision of means of defense to the oppressed and Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, has made the Muslims of the world certain that, today, the superpowers are pursuing no aim with their arrogant policies other than opposition to Islam.

The eminent leader described the banishment of faithful young Palestinians from their homes and homeland as a violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, elsewhere in his remarks, he condemned the action of the world powers in preventing the supply of weapons to the defenseless and oppresssed people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said: Those who claim to be the masters of the world are using the excuse of preventing the spread of war in order to pass a meaningless, illogical, and mistaken resolution banning the supply of weapons to the area of fighting, but they have consistently ignored reports about the supply of weapons to the Serbs for the purpose of killing Muslims. That is the extent of their injustice and unfairness toward Muslims.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the religious leadership and the rule of Islam over Iran as an obstacle to the acts of plunder perpetrated by the United States and Britain aimed at robbing the resources and wealth of the country. He added: The Iranian nation is strong and victorious and there is no doubt that the United States, Europe, and the community of arrogants are unable to take any steps against the will of the Muslim people of Iran. Despite the wishes of their enemies, the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran have foiled all the conspiracies and defended Islam and the Islamic Republic and they will defend their achievements with wisdom and vigilance.

The leader of the Islamic revolution stressed the importance of recognizing the conspiracy of the enemies of Islam who oppose religion, religious teachings, and religious leaders.

He ended his remarks by emphasizing the need for a close link between the people and officials; respect for the servants of religion and the country; efforts to give greater depth to Islamic teachings; and the fulfillment of the tremendous existing potential for the purpose of disappointing the enemies of Islam and opening the way to progress.

Pakistan

Iraqi Seeks Muslim Support Against U.S. Threat

BK0901095893 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 8—Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Akram al-Douri has called upon the government and people of Pakistan and the Muslim countries throughout the world to raise their voice against the threats of naked aggression being given to Iraq by the U.S.

Talking to THE MUSLIM here Friday [8 January] night, he expressed the hope that Pakistan as a member of the UN Security Council would play its positive role. He said if the U.S. aggression against Iraq takes place, it will be condemned by the world. He said Iraq is determined to continue necessary flights over its territory which is Iraq's sovereign right. He said Iraq is free to move on ground in civil and military [words indistinct] the United States to divide Iraq.

He said the U.S. has raised the issue of no-fly zone as a pretext to attack Iraq before President Bush leaves his office. He said this move is also aimed at diverting the world opinion regarding 400 Palestinians despite the UN resolution. He said Iraq is flying in its own space and it has not violated any international law.

He said Iraq is not seeking confrontation but if there is going to be an act of aggression against Iraq within the so-called deadline, Iraq will take necessary measures to protect itself and "we will fight because we have no other choice."

India Reportedly Accepts Consulate Proposal

BK1101093393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] India has accepted Pakistan's proposal to reduce the number of personnel at its Karachi Consulate General to 20. An official spokesman said in Islamabad that

Pakistan feels that in accordance with the mutually-agreed upon code of conduct there should be proportional representation in Karachi and Bombay. The number of personnel in Delhi and Islamabad should also be proportionate. The spokesman said that Pakistan views the Indian proposal in this context, and it will also agree with the proposal that the maximum number of Indian and Pakistani personnel in Islamabad and New Delhi respectively should be 110. The spokesman expressed surprise and regret that India has deviated from its pledge to hand over to Pakistan the Jinnah House in Bombay. He said that further talks will be held in this regard.

Foreign Secretary on U.S. Terrorism Listing

BK0901100493 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 9 Jan 93 p 1, 10

[By Javed A. Malik]

[Text] Islamabad, The United States has given 180 days to Pakistan for proving that it is not promoting international terrorism or it will face the consequences of being on the list of "terrorist states."

Confirming this to THE NEWS, Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan, said here Friday [8 January] that the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan John Monjo, met him Thursday and handed over a letter in this regard.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Syeda Abida Hussain, was also called to the State Department the same day and was informed of the U.S. government's decision by the Assistant Secretary of State, Arnold Kanter.

Pakistan shares this fate with Sudan which has also been put "under close watch" for indulging in activities which come under the definition of promoting acts of international terrorism, according to the U.S. authorities.

Shaharyar Khan insisted that the more important fact was that Pakistan was not on the list yet and the Clinton administration would now decide upon the issue within the next four months.

The decision of the United States, he claimed only meant that Pakistan and Sudan would be kept under a more strict watch than other countries for alleged activities of promoting acts of international terrorism. But, he said, there were several other countries which were watched for this.

According to a well informed source in Pakistan Embassy in Washington, the United States administration has apparently not accepted Pakistan's plea that situation regarding Pakistan's support of Kashmiris freedom fighters, the reason cited by the U.S. for penalising Pakistan, has changed since September 1992. Pakistan has publicly been claiming that the country is not supporting Kashmiri freedom fighters materially and the freedom movement in the occupied territory is totally indigenous.

Six other countries, last year on the list of terrorist states, presented to the U.S. Congress by the State Department were Syria, Cuba, Iraq, Iran, Libya and North Korea.

The notification concerning these states, usually issued in January each year, does not contain Pakistan's name.

However, section 65 J of the export Administration act under which the list is notified, allows the United States government the flexibility of putting any country on it during anytime of the year. Syria was put on the list in middle of the year.

The law governing the terrorist implies that not only the United States administration would be forced to stop all types of assistance, including humanistarian aid to Pakistan, but it would also be forced to vote against any loans of Pakistan in all the multilateral institutions.

This implies that Pakistan, if put on the list, would not be able get any multilateral assistance from the international institutions as in them the U.S. is the majority share holder.

The countries which are put on this list face isolation in the international community because of the influence of the U.S. Compared to the ease with which a country could be put on the list, it is very difficult to remove one from it. The law describes a very lengthy and complicated procedure for this.

On a request for comment by THE NEWS, the U.S. State Department's spokesman Richard Boucher gave the following statement Friday night:

"We are concerned about continuing report of Pakistan support for Kashmiri and Sikh militants who commit terrorist acts in India. The secretary determined that the available information did not warrant a finding that Pakistan has "repeatedly provided support for acts of terrorism."

"It should be emphasized that Pakistan or any nation may be designated as a state sponsoring terrorism at any time.

"The United States has raised this issue frequently with the Pakistan government at the highest level and they are aware of our views and we hope they will take them into account. We are keeping the situation under active continuous review."

U.S. Urged To Adopt Equitable Nuclear Stand

BK0901113693 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 3 Jan 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Nuclear Program—Clinton Administration's Responsibility"]

[Text] Begum Abida Hussain, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, has said that "Pakistan will continue its nuclear program at all costs and there will be no compromise on this issue. If making nuclear weapons is wrong, then it should be so for all the countries. It is ironical that Canada had sought U.S. assistance to develop its nuclear missiles. Israel, South Africa, and India also possess nuclear force, but only Pakistan is being made target in this regard." Begum Abida Hussain's statement that Pakistan's nuclear program should be viewed in the regional perspective echoes the call Islamabad has been making for a long time.

The nuclear arms race in South Asia was unleashed by India by exploding a nuclear device in 1974, posing a serious threat to Pakistan, which did not have the capability to defend itself from India even in a conventional war. India's hegemonic ambitions are not hidden from anyone. None of India's neighbors are safe from New Delhi's aggression. India has never accepted the existence of Pakistan whole-heartedly, and that is why it is particularly bent on eliminating it and has also succeeded in dividing it in 1971. Now, New Delhi is planning to dismember what remains of Pakistan.

Unfortunately, when Pakistan is pursuing a policy of nuclear deterrence to meet the threat of aggression from India, the Hindu and Jewish lobbies have aroused world's opinion against Pakistan by carrying out propaganda about an "Islamic Bomb." The United States, in particular, has stopped economic aid to Pakistan, and now Japan is also pressuring Islamabad to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

It is astonishing that the United States, the West, and anti-Islamic forces are opposed to the nuclear program of Pakistan and, for that matter, of any Islamic country only, but they have no objection to the nuclear programs of India, Israel, Canada, South Africa, Brazil, and Mexico. Begum Abida Hussain's concern that Pakistan is being isolated and punished for its nuclear program is totally justified. Begum Abida Hussain has expressed the hope that the new U.S. Administration will try to understand Pakistan's actual defense requirements.

In fact, Pakistan is a peace-loving country and has been working for peace in the region. It has moved a resolution in the United Nations to declare the Indian Ocean and South Asia free of nuclear weapons and has expressed its willingness on several occasions to sign the NPT provided India, Israel, and other countries are also forced to do so. It is noteworthy that even though India and Israel are not ready to sign the NPT, their economic aid has not been stopped nor is any other pressure being exerted on them.

The United States and the developed world should adopt an equitable and fair attitude toward our nuclear program on the basis of the principles of truth and justice. If India signs the NPT, Pakistan is also ready to do so; but in the face of India's nuclear arsenal, Islamabad cannot remain oblivious to the defense of its security, independence, and sovereignty. The world should try to understand Pakistan's stand on this issue. If, by her arguments, Begum Abida Hussain is able to convince the next U.S. Administration and make them appreciate Pakistan's stand, then it will be her greatest diplomatic success.

Indian Forces Set 3 Houses Ablaze in Kashmir

BK0901143593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, the Indian forces have set on fire another three houses in Srinagar, with reports of inmates, including children and women, being burned alive. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], several persons have died in the arson. Baramula has also been placed under curfew after furious protest demonstrations over the Sopor incident, in which more than 75 innocent persons were burned alive by the Indian troops.

Kashmiris To Observe Protest Day 12 Jan

BK1001120693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir will observe protest day on Tuesday [12 January] against Sopor massacre on the call of the AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan. Wide-scale protest rallies would be held by the Kashmiris to invite world attention toward the growing incident of murder, arson, loot, kidnapping and molestation of women in the Indian-occupied Kashmir. In an interview to APP in Muzaffarabad on telephone, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, who is currently in Saudi Arabia to attend the conference of Rabta al-Alam al-Islami [World Muslim League], has said the world conscience must be awakened over the genocidal campaign being pursued by the Indian occupying forces in the held territory. Referring to the tragic incident of Sopor, he said burning alive of over 70 innocent Kashmiris should be a matter of grave concern for the entire humanity.

Commentary Calls For Halt to Killings in Kashmir

BK0901141593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Jan 93

[A.B.S. Jafri Commentary entitled: "Killing of Kashmiris in Sopor"]

[Text] Hardly three days after the British home secretary, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, personally advised the leaders of government of India in New Delhi to put an end to military action in occupied Kashmir and begin political negotiations, the military force carried out a premeditated massacre of the people in the town of Sopor. According to unbiased international news sources, a minimum of 50 people were martyred by Indian army personnel and scores of houses were set on fire. Estimates vary, but again international news agencies say some 40 lives may have been burned to ashes as a result of deliberate arson by Indian troops.

This is, of course, not the first time that Indian Army deployed in occupied Kashmir has resorted to massacre of undefended people in Kashmir. During the past nearly four years that the occupied parts of the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir has been under military action, thousands of people have been killed in cold blood, countless houses have been burned to cinder and ashes, and this kind of inhumanity continues. In fact, the scale of this kind of heartless oppression has gone on widening as days have passed. The visiting British home secretary, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, had also suggested to the government of India to allow human rights monitoring organizations, like the Amnesty International based in London, to visit occupied Kashmir and make a study of the situation there. We are not aware of Indian Government's response to Mr. Clarke's suggestion in this regard. However, the Sopor killings, which appear to be a sample of Indian response to the persuasions of Mr. Clarke, do not provide much evidence of any change of heart in New Delhi as far as its policy of (?sheer) oppression in occupied Kashmir is concerned.

The report of the Sopor massacre has been carried by British and United States print and electronic media with unusual prominence. This can be a signal to New Delhi that after all these years the media in these countries have not totally forgotten about the misery and cruelty which is the lot of people in Indian-occupied Kashmir, where people have been dying like flies at the hands of the Indian Army troops. It is believed that some 400,000 crack Indian Army troops are waging what is now a full-fledged military action. While killing is now the standard device to keep the freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir for nearly four years, the question which the leadership in India ought to be asking is whether this has produced any kind of result which may serve whatever purposes it is trying to achieve. It does not need a very greater deal of wisdom to conclude that military operations spread over a period of four long years is very close to the duration of the World War II, which lasted around six years. With such a huge military force on war footing, all that India has achieved in occupied Kashmir is thousands of Kashmiris dead, a few hundred of its own army personnel and paramilitary men also killed in action.

The economy of occupied Kashmir in total ruins, the people utterly alienated, the situation in the occupied Kashmir today is such that the government of New Delhi has made it out of bounds for its own journalists and human right groups. But, whatever information does trickle through bans and restrictions speak of what is nearly unspeakable—military firing on unarmed political demonstrators, even on funeral processions, gang-rapes of women in remote mountain villages, even major cities and towns, not excluding the state's capital of Srinagar. Deliberate (?destruction) of whole villages by arson, in which very often people are trapped in leaping flames and die by dozens. How long India proposes to continue with this very (?civil) war on occupied people is of course for India to say, but the point which is becoming increasingly sensitive to barbaric disregard of basic human rights may begin to ask for an end to this kind of repression of the people asking for their freedom. [sentence as heard]. Britain, by all standards a good friend of India, intends to be impartial toward it. The leadership in India ought to realize that if British cabinet minister goes so far as to advise India in public to initiate political action in occupied Kashmir, the signal should be clearly understood. It also means: Stop killing the people in occupied Kashmir.

Indian 'Massacre in Kashmir' Condemned

BK1001142393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 10 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Massacre in Kashmir"]

[Text] Despite world scrutiny the Indian Government has become an expert dissembler at hiding its hand in major crimes against humanity. The destruction of the Babri Masjid [mosque] got blamed on the Opposition's Hindu extremists. The Indian Government absolved itself of any wrongdoing. Inaction at the scene of a crime is passive complicity, which also is a crime. In the case of the government's latest crime, that of killing and burning alive of 72 Kashmiri civilians, the cloak of innocence that the Indian Government is trying to put on, cannot hide its blood-soaked hand. The Indian Government has, therefore, sent a Kashmiri in their pay to look into the incident and send back a report. Why could not a High Court judge be sent? But supposing their nominated traitor finds the massacre too blood-curdling even for his stomach, and reports a part of the truth, what will that amount to? When the Indian soldiers murdered forty mourners at the funeral of Mir Waiz Faruq in front of hundreds of witnesses, did anything happen? All that one heard from the Held Kashmir Governor was that it was a mistake. State terrorism on a large scale, as reported by Indians and Western visitors, has been going on for years now in Held Kashmir. Amnesty International and Red Cross have not been allowed to visit the places of the crimes. Thousands of civilians have been killed even according to official reports. And yet somehow it is Pakistan and not India that is to be blamed.

That is the most amazing part of it. Open genocide of the Kashmiris is going on and yet the countries like the US have fallen for the Indian line that the revolt of the Kashmiris against the Indian rule is sponsored by Pakistan. No one has tried to find out why this is happening now. Pakistan's support to the cause of Kashmir has not changed one whit during the last forty years, so why now when full ten divisions of the Indian Army have sealed the Occupied Kashmir's entire border with Pakistan with a virtually impregnable line of defence? There are rumours that Pakistan is to be declared a terrorist state for its hand in the uprising in Kashmir. Someone somewhere in the US is certainly willing to be duped, in spite of all the evidence to the contrary, by the lies being fed by India. Indian motives are obvious. But what are the motives of those who are willing to believe the Indians? That is the question.

First Group of Pakistanis Reach Lahore From Dhaka

BK1001144093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The first group of 323 Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh reached Lahore today by a special plane. They were received at the Lahore airport by the Punjab chief minister, Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne, representatives of Rabta al-Alam al-Islami [World Muslim League], provincial ministers, elected representatives, the mayor of Lahore, and workers of the Pakistan Muslim League. PTV representative Fayaz Ahmad Warraich said emotional scenes were witnessed on the arrival of these Pakistanis who have returned home after a wait of more than 20 years. They thanked the Almighty Allah for their return to [their] homeland. These Pakistanis were given copies of the holy Koran, blankets, warm shawls, sweaters and other material of daily use. The Punjab Government is constructing residential colonies for these Pakistanis in Okara near Channu and other cities. For the time being, they will be accommodated in the quarters in Okara where all necessary facilities have already been provided. The project director of Rabta al-Alam al-Islami, Mr. (Wail Jildan), praised the efforts of the Pakistani Government for bringing back these stranded Pakistanis.

Welcoming the first batch, Mr. Ghulam Hider Wayne said the Punjab Government would do everything possible for their rehabilitation and providing them jobs. He asked them to work hard for making the country strong and prosperous as true and sincere Pakistanis.

Bomb Explodes in Sindh; 'at Least' 13 Killed

BK1101053493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] KARACHI, Jan 11 (AFP)—At least 13 people were killed and 25 injured when a time bomb exploded in a Bihari settlement in Kotri town, about 90 miles (60 kilometres) north of here, police said. The blast coincided with the arrival in Pakistan of a first batch of 323 Biharis from Bangladesh, where they had been stranded since that country's independence in 1971.

Police said they suspected the motor-cycle bomb was planted by militants of the Jiya Sindh nationalist party, who oppose the settlement of any more Biharis in Pakistan's southern province.

Eye-witness reports said the bomb went off a few minutes after an unidentified man parked the motor-cycle outside a restaurant and ran away. The restaurant and nearby shops were badly damaged by the blast and resulting fire. Ambulances took the injured to hospital as firemen brought the blaze under control.

The government ordered a security alert in Sindh after the incident, and army troops and paramilitary rangers were posted at sensitive points in Karachi and other cities, police said.

The first of an estimated 238,000 Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh arrived late Sunday from Dhaka in Lahore, capital of Punjab Province.

The Urdu-speaking Biharis first migrated after the subcontinent's independence from Britain and partition into India and east and west Pakistan in 1947. When east Pakistan became Bangladesh after the war of independence in 1971 some 200,000 Biharis managed to reach Pakistan and settled in Sindh. The remaining 238,000, who kept their Pakistani citizenship, were unable to leave Bangladesh because of the huge cost of repatriation and opposition from various quarters in Pakistan to their return, notably in Sindh.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has promised that the new arrivals will be resettled in his home province of Punjab.

Sri Lanka

Military Headquarters Moved to Northeast

BK1101111893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] The Joint Operations Command [JOC] Headquarters is to be shifted to the ancient capital Anuradhapura shortly. According to senior defense officials no date has been fixed for the move, which will take place once the Army's Second Division Headquarters, which is now at Anuradhapura, is shifted to Vavuniya. Only the operation element of the JOC will be involved in the move, while sections dealing with civil affairs and police will operate from a [word indistinct] headquarters of the JOC in Colombo. The moves of the two headquarters are expected to bring closer liaison with the field commanders involved in operations against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and thereby exert greater pressure on the terrorists. Defense officials said that the move of the JOC on a directive by the Defense Ministry reflected the government's commitment to pressure the LTTE into peace talks with a view to bringing about a solution to the northeast conflict at least this year.

LTTE Suspends Operation in Jaffna Lagoon

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[Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—LTTE—has suspended operations in the Jaffna lagoon which has been declared a no-go zone by the Sri Lankan

Government. The Joint Operation Command [JOC] spokesman told LANKAPUVATH on Saturday [9 January] that on Friday the LTTE had not attempted any crossing from Jaffna to the mainland through the lagoon. This follows the Navy exerting very tight pressure on the Tigers and carrying out maximum vigilance to maintain the blockade. The JOC spokesman said the LTTE is loosing a lot of money as now they cannot exhort from civilian passengers using the ferry, who had to pay a 1,500 rupees for a 30-minute speed boat crossing and 200 rupees for slow boat one. The JOC spokesman said that according to latest statistics the LTTE has lost as many as 60 crafts and a large number of cadres moving between South and North in the Jaffna lagoon due to superior Navy fire power and vigilance. This has caused them to suspend the operation across the Jaffna lagoon.

Meanwhile, residents of Jaffna led by students and academics have planned to hold a demonstration against decision made by the LTTE Leader Prabhakaran to conscript their parents, all elderly man and women as home guards in order to meet the shortage of manpower. The report said that the first home guard unit has already been formed by the LTTE at Velivayal.